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## **A Layered History: Interpreting Cultural Resources at Sesquicentennial State Park**

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# A Layered History: Interpreting Cultural Resources at Sesquicentennial State Park

## Description

Sesquicentennial State Park is one of the most popular state parks in South Carolina and is well-known in the Columbia metropolitan area as a refuge from the hustle and bustle of the urban scene. Driving through its entrance gates from busy Two Notch Road, visitors find themselves immediately in the midst of a pine forest. Past the ranger's kiosk a winding road follows the contours of the gently rolling terrain, offering occasional glimpses of a mysterious fire tower, an evocative two-story log house, and eventually the open vista of a large lake with white concrete buildings and lawns along the shore. This beguiling patch of nature in the midst of the city has long been a place for recreation and for learning natural history in an "outdoor classroom." Although an historical plaque notes that the park was established by the Sesquicentennial Commission, there is little at the modern park to help visitors see that the site has both natural history and a deep human history. (A couple of recently placed waysides now explain the role of the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s and a civil rights challenge in the 1960s.) This report presents some preliminary findings on the human history of the park – as well as the history of the site before it became a park.

The report is divided into seven sections. The first section is the park's current mission statement. Sections two and three present a set of "statements of significance" and "primary interpretive themes" which seek to identify important patterns of history at the site as ways to make the past meaningful to public audiences. The fourth and largest section offers fresh research on the history of Sesquicentennial State Park by "periodizing" it into five eras: the pre-park history, the role of the Sesquicentennial Commission of 1936 in creating the park, the management of the South Carolina Commission of Forestry, the ten-year struggle to desegregate South Carolina's state parks, and the management of the South Carolina State Park Service, the current steward of the park. Section five offers ideas for how this history might be communicated to visitors in a cost-effective manner, using strategically placed QR codes in public areas and along existing walking trails. Because this is a preliminary report on park history, section six contains suggestions for further research to help guide future researchers, within or beyond the South Carolina State Park Service. The research team discovered much new information but much more can be uncovered. Lastly, section seven is an appendix with an historical timeline, bibliographies, additional information on individuals significant in the pre-park era, and a list of people who worked to establish a museum on the history of Columbia as one legacy of the Sesquicentennial commemoration.

## Keywords

South Carolina, Park Service, public history, Sesquicentennial State Park

## Disciplines

History | Public History

## Comments

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# A LAYERED HISTORY

INTERPRETING CULTURAL RESOURCES AT SESQUICENTENNIAL STATE PARK



PREPARED FOR THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE PARK SERVICE

*by*

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A successful public history project necessarily draws upon the support of many people. This report has benefitted from the help of a number of individuals and organizations. First and foremost, we thank our community partner, the South Carolina State Park Service. We appreciate the support of John Wells, Park Manager at Sesquicentennial State Park. We want to single out two people, in particular: Al Hester, Historic Sites Coordinator, and Stacey Jensen, Park Interpreter at Sesquicentennial State Park. Their enthusiasm for the project at its inception and their energetic and unflagging support at every step of the way made the project possible. They oriented us to the physical landscape of the park on an initial site visit, shared their deep knowledge of the park, guided us through a workshop on statements of significance and interpretive themes, patiently answered innumerable e-mails and phone calls, participated in a public forum on our preliminary findings, and reviewed and commented on a draft of this report. Al Hester has been thinking about the history of the park – and the pre-park history of the site – for some time, and he very kindly shared his pre-park research notes, scanned manuscript materials, and photocopies of published works on state park history. In addition, three other members of the South Carolina State Park Service have been supportive and generous with advice: Terry Hurley, Chief of Resource Management and Interpretation, and Joy Raintree, Regional Chief for the Sandhills Region. Both offered feedback at the public forum and suggestions for the format for the QR codes. Archaeologist David Jones shared his expertise with us as we attempted to identify the locations of several 19<sup>th</sup>-century buildings that pre-dated creation of the park. Our classmate Kate Schoen, who works with Al Hester at the State Park Service, an invaluable conduit for communicating research leads and questions between State Parks and the students in the class.

The records housed at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History were essential to telling this story. For directing us to numerous promising research sources and generously sharing their knowledge of state government and the history of South Carolina, we are indebted to Steven D. Tuttle, Director of Archives and Records Management; Bryan Collars, Electronic Records and Digital Collections archivist; Dr. Charles Lesser, now retired from the department; and Wade Dorsey and Robert Murray at the Research Room. Together they identified multiple collections and record groups for researching both the park and the pre-park history. We are also grateful for the insights Mr. Tuttle and Dr. Lesser shared at the public forum. Many years ago when he was processing the Commission of Forestry records, Dr. Lesser came across correspondence in which park planners insisted that any parks built for African Americans on running water be sited downstream from white parks. Memory of this long-ago memo helped us identify the importance of fears of “water contamination” in white resistance to integrating swimming areas in parks.

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We want to acknowledge the important work related to Sesquicentennial State Park undertaken by some of our colleagues in the Department of History at the University of South Carolina. Elizabeth Koele and Emily Martin researched and wrote the pioneering work on the role of the civil rights movement at the park: *Civil Rights at Sesquicentennial State Park: A History and Preservation Plan for the Entrance of Sesquicentennial State Park*. It was undertaken as a class project in the Public History Program’s “Capital City Field School” in Fall 2017 and became the basis for the wayside that was placed by the Park Service near the lake. We would also like to thank Professor Thomas Lekan, who kindly shared with us the work his students did on longleaf pine and slash pine at Sesquicentennial in his “Environmental History in Public Lands” seminar in Spring 2017.

Finally, we thank Professor Robert Weyeneth who guided us through the process of researching and writing this public history report.

We thank all who assisted us in this project but note that none of these individuals or organizations is responsible for the conclusions and historical interpretations in this report. We hope that this report proves useful in future interpretive efforts at Sesquicentennial State Park.

## Executive Summary

Sesquicentennial State Park is one of the most popular state parks in South Carolina and is well-known in the Columbia metropolitan area as a refuge from the hustle and bustle of the urban scene. Driving through its entrance gates from busy Two Notch Road, visitors find themselves immediately in the midst of a pine forest. Past the ranger's kiosk a winding road follows the contours of the gently rolling terrain, offering occasional glimpses of a mysterious fire tower, an evocative two-story log house, and eventually the open vista of a large lake with white concrete buildings and lawns along the shore. This beguiling patch of nature in the midst of the city has long been a place for recreation and for learning natural history in an "outdoor classroom." Although an historical plaque notes that the park was established by the Sesquicentennial Commission, there is little at the modern park to help visitors see that the site has both natural history and a deep human history. (A couple of recently placed waysides now explain the role of the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s and a civil rights challenge in the 1960s.) This report presents some preliminary findings on the human history of the park – as well as the history of the site before it became a park.

The report is divided into seven sections. The first section is the park's current mission statement. Sections two and three present a set of "statements of significance" and "primary interpretive themes" which seek to identify important patterns of history at the site as ways to make the past meaningful to public audiences. The fourth and largest section offers fresh research on the history of Sesquicentennial State Park by "periodizing" it into five eras: the pre-park history, the role of the Sesquicentennial Commission of 1936 in creating the park, the management of the South Carolina Commission of Forestry, the ten-year struggle to desegregate South Carolina's state parks, and the management of the South Carolina State Park Service, the current steward of the park. Section five offers ideas for how this history might be communicated to visitors in a cost-effective manner, using strategically placed QR codes in public areas and along existing walking trails. Because this is a preliminary report on park history, section six contains suggestions for further research to help guide future researchers, within or beyond the South Carolina State Park Service. The research team discovered much new information but much more can be uncovered. Lastly, section seven is an appendix with an historical timeline, bibliographies, additional information on individuals significant in the pre-park era, and a list of people who worked to establish a museum on the history of Columbia as one legacy of the Sesquicentennial commemoration.

## Origins and Methodology of the Project

The origins of this project can be traced to a field course in historic preservation offered by the University of South Carolina's Public History Program: the "Capital City Field School" taught by Professor Robert Weyeneth in Fall 2017. The field school was visiting Sesquicentennial State Park in late October for a unit on issues in the management of cultural landscapes with hosts Al Hester and Stacey Jensen of the South Carolina State Park Service. While walking back from the lake and spillway, Jennifer Melton asked Professor Weyeneth when he intended to next offer a graduate seminar with a collaborative team project as its focus. This question dovetailed nicely with Al Hester's long-time interest in looking at Sesquicentennial State Park as a "cultural landscape," not just a natural history park. Jennifer Melton's question inspired many further questions but, eventually, an answer: the Public History Program's "Historic Site Interpretation" seminar in Spring 2019 would partner with the South Carolina State Park Service to research and write what has become this report.

A site visit to the park in late January 2019 oriented the students to the modern park and what remained on the landscape as "extant cultural resources." Subsequent conversations about park history persuaded the seminar that the site had a long and complicated history and that we needed an efficient way to undertake the research over the short time frame of a fifteen-week semester. The class brainstormed about large historical patterns we might find at the park, identifying themes such as environmental history, labor history, African American history, civil rights history, and administrative history, among others.

The next step was undertaking place-based archival and library research. Dividing the history into a set of historical periods – and then building period-specific research teams – seemed to make the most sense from a research standpoint. The class identified five generally distinct, but sometimes overlapping, periods in the history of the park, and students volunteered for the teams. Team A examined the pre-park history and consisted of Justin Harwell, Kira Lyle, Jennifer Melton, Hannah Patton, Ragan Ramsey, and Kate Schoen. Team B researched the roles of the Sesquicentennial Commission and the Civilian Conservation Corps in creating the whites-only segregated park in the 1930s; its members included Kaley Brown, Stephanie Gilbert, Zoie Horecny, Helen Marodin, and Paige Weaver. Team C engaged the role of the South Carolina Commission of Forestry in managing the park from 1940 to 1967 and was comprised of Kaley Brown, Ragan Ramsey, Carlie Todd, and Paige Weaver. The challenges to segregation in the state parks of South Carolina seemed to warrant its own section, and this context was written by Team D: Maclane Hull, Jennifer Melton, and Kate Schoen. Finally, the management of the park's current steward, the South Carolina State Park Service, was assembled by Team E: Stephanie Gilbert, Zoie Horecny, Maclane Hull, Kira Lyle, and Carlie Todd. The title of this report – *A Layered History: Interpreting Cultural Resources at Sesquicentennial State Park* – reflects both our approach to writing the history and the multiple layers of history we discovered and documented.

Throughout the research process, everyone was also thinking about ways that our research could reach the public. The report was prepared for the South Carolina State Park Service – which would eventually use it (or not) to craft public programming and construct waysides at Sesquicentennial State Park – but the class wanted to experiment with some hypothetical interpretive products of its own (which we all hoped might actually be implemented). Al Hester and Stacey Jensen had presented a workshop that introduced the class to a Park Service planning process aimed at writing statements of



significance and primary interpretive themes, as a way to give meaning to cultural resources and promote public education. This intellectual foundation helped us conceptualize how some of our research findings could be shared with park visitors. The students knew they wanted to learn a bit about how digital history could be incorporated into public history and that the Park Service budget for interpretive materials was limited. We eventually settled on placement of QR codes at or near extant (and in some cases vanished) cultural resources that could tell stories about the history of the site now known as Sesquicentennial State Park.

Several students donated their time after the end of the semester to produce the final report: Jennifer Melton, Ragan Ramsey, and Kate Schoen. They did some final revising of the prose, integrated images and captions into the text, assembled the seven sections into a coherent whole, and gave thought to the graphics and design of the report. The entire class is grateful to this intrepid group for spending some of their summer break creating the final version of A Layered History.

## Section I. Current Mission Statement for the Park

### **For the South Carolina State Park Service**

To encourage people to discover South Carolina's state parks by providing resource-based recreational and educational opportunities that emphasize the conservation, protection and interpretation of the state's natural and cultural resources.

### **For Sesquicentennial State Park**

To provide quality outdoor recreation and educational opportunities in this rare urban green space. These opportunities will be provided in a manner consistent with the proper management and protection of the park's resources while instilling positive stewardship ethics in visitors to the park.

## Section II. Statements of Significance

**ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY.** The natural landscape of Sesquicentennial State Park – Jackson Creek, the sandhills, pine forests, and wildlife – provides an evocative setting for visitors to understand the historical extraction of natural resources, how the land produced a livelihood for its owners and laborers, and the impact of fire.

**LABOR HISTORY.** The exploitation of natural resources since the onset of European settlement at the site now known as Sesquicentennial State Park has been closely linked to the exploitation and oppression of people through racial slavery, turpentine extraction, sharecropping, and tenant farming.

**THE GENESIS OF THE PARK.** Sesquicentennial State Park is one of sixteen state parks constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in South Carolina in the 1930s and suggests the impact of the federal New Deal in the Palmetto State. The park is also a monument to the work of the Sesquicentennial Commission of 1936 and represents its most elaborate material legacy.

**AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY.** The physical and cultural landscape of Sesquicentennial State Park reflects at least two centuries of African American history in South Carolina, from slavery to freedom.

**CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY.** The effort to desegregate Sesquicentennial State Park in the 1960s was a significant chapter in the civil rights movement in South Carolina that precipitated white resistance and closure of the entire state parks system, but ultimately, the desegregation and racial integration of all parks statewide.

**ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY.** The administrative history of the park offers unique opportunities for pulling back the curtain on how and why decisions were made by the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Sesquicentennial Commission, the South Carolina Commission of Forestry, and the South Carolina State Park Service about park stewardship, management, and interpretation.

**EDUCATION: THE MULTIPLE LAYERS OF HISTORY AT THE PARK.** Because there is a record of continuous human habitation and use over centuries at the site now known as Sesquicentennial State Park, it is a place with multiple layers of history. This rich and layered history offers enormous opportunity for the park to teach visitors about environmental history, agricultural history, social history, and the administrative history of the park and thereby supplement the park's long-standing mission of teaching natural history.

## Section III. Primary Interpretive Themes

**ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY.** The natural landscape of Sesquicentennial State Park – Jackson Creek, the sandhills, pine forests, and wildlife – provides an evocative setting for visitors to understand the historical extraction of natural resources, how the land produced a livelihood for its owners and laborers, and the impact of fire.

- In the fifty years before Sesquicentennial State Park’s creation, the original longleaf pine forest was cut for lumber and tapped for turpentine by those who lived and labored in the area. This deforestation later prompted the Civilian Conservation Corps and the South Carolina Commission of Forestry to introduce fast-growth loblolly and slash pine to the area as a beautification effort. The virtual eradication of the forest cover from the late-19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> centuries reveals both the environmental consequences associated with human use of natural resources and the variety of ways human inhabitants relied on these natural resources for their livelihood.
- At present, Sesquicentennial State Park contains 778 acres of pine forest that include the native longleaf pine and the exotic loblolly and slash pine. Because only three million acres of longleaf pine survive in the southeastern United States today, the stands of longleaf in the park are a small but important remnant of the site’s pre-habitation forest cover and the more recent reforestation efforts.
- The remaining longleaf pines at Sesquicentennial State Park, including those that bear scars from turpentine harvesting, provide a unique opportunity to interpret the history of extractive use of natural resources, especially the history of timber and turpentine production, in the Midlands from the antebellum era to the 20th century.
- Forest management and fire prevention have long been concerns of park stewards, from the Civilian Conservation Corps to the Commission of Forestry and now to the State Park Service. Despite these efforts, the park witnessed major fires in 1947 and 1952. The threat of future fires remains acute, given the residential housing tracts that have been constructed since the 1960s immediately adjacent to park boundaries.

**LABOR HISTORY.** The exploitation of natural resources since the onset of European settlement at the site now known as Sesquicentennial State Park has been closely linked to the exploitation and oppression of people through racial slavery, turpentine extraction, sharecropping, and tenant farming.

- In the 19<sup>th</sup> century prior to the Civil War, patterns of agricultural labor were based on race-based slavery. White slave-owners used enslaved labor to extract the most profit from the land and its resources, and in the postwar era landowners continued to exploit sharecroppers, tenant farmers, and laborers in the turpentine industry.
- James Douglass’s use of enslaved labor to harvest longleaf pine for lumber and to cultivate food crops allows us to study alterations and use of the pre-park landscape and to explore, more generally, agricultural and labor practices in Richland County.

- As a modern-day urban park, Sesquicentennial State Park serves as a place for visitors to experience the power of the historic relationship between humans and the land they inhabit. Visitors can learn how land has provided opportunities for economic advancement and independence, but also enabled social exclusion and racial oppression.

THE GENESIS OF THE PARK. Sesquicentennial State Park is one of sixteen state parks constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in South Carolina in the 1930s and suggests the impact of the federal New Deal in the Palmetto State. The park is also a monument to the work of the Sesquicentennial Commission of 1936 and represents its most elaborate material legacy.

- Sesquicentennial State Park is an example of the formative role of the Civilian Conservation Corps in establishing the South Carolina system of state parks.
- Building the lake, spillway, and assorted swimming facilities were the most significant construction projects undertaken by the Civilian Conservation Corps to create the park. These landscape features have continued to provide the recreational focus of the park for over eighty years.
- The origins of Sesquicentennial State Park in 1936 are rooted in the problematical and intertwined history of freedom and race in American life. The Sesquicentennial celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of a capital city for the new state (and former colony) in the years immediately after the American Revolution through a series of public events and erection of fifty historical markers. The most elaborate physical expression of the celebration was creation of the 1,400-acre whites-only Sesquicentennial State Park on the outskirts of Columbia. In this way, the origins of the park reflect a commemorative moment that embraced ideas of both liberty and white supremacy.
- In celebrating the anniversary of the founding of Columbia in 1786 by creating the park, the Sesquicentennial Commission inaugurated what would become a consistent theme in planning at the park: shaping public memory through construction of an historical narrative linking the park to significant national events.
- The relocation of Weddell Fire Tower into the park represents the role of the Civilian Conservation Corps in historic fire management in controlling forest fires and improving firefighting methods.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY. The physical and cultural landscape of Sesquicentennial State Park reflects at least two centuries of African American history in South Carolina, from slavery to freedom.

- The history of the site now known as Sesquicentennial State Park – its former mill and plantation landscapes populated by enslaved black women, men, and children, previous owners, sharecroppers, tenant farmers, and turpentine laborers – reflect broad patterns of African American history in Richland County in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

- The site now known as Sesquicentennial State Park is a vanished “landscape of slavery.” Its former fields, fences, slave houses, grist and saw mills, roads, and pine woods tell stories about the lived experiences of Africans, African Americans, and others who inhabited the pre-park site.
- Within park boundaries are an extant cemetery and the sites of a church and school that reflect the once-thriving Corley’s Chapel community, built by African Americans in the aftermath of the Civil War. The community survived into the Jim Crow era, and the cemetery remains active today.
- By design, the Civilian Conservation Corps’ architecture of the park was an architecture of exclusion: the modest gates functioned as an entrance for whites to use the park’s bathhouses, picnic shelters, lake, creek, and trails – and as a racialized barrier that denied access to African Americans.

CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY. The effort to desegregate Sesquicentennial State Park in the 1960s was a significant chapter in the civil rights movement in South Carolina that precipitated white resistance and closure of the entire state parks system, but ultimately, the desegregation and racial integration of all parks statewide.

- The waters of Jackson Creek have been a culturally significant resource magnet for centuries, drawing Native American settlement and Euro-American agriculture in the pre-park era and, later, providing the essential resource for creating the recreational focus of the modern park, the lake. In the civil rights era, the struggle over the segregated park targeted use of the lake waters: African Americans wanted equal access and relief from the heat of South Carolina summers, while whites feared “water contamination” if black bodies were allowed to swim in the lake.
- Sesquicentennial State Park was one of several state parks in South Carolina that witnessed a challenge to the segregation of South Carolina’s state park system.
- As a place where the segregation of South Carolina’s state park system was challenged in 1961, the entrance gate at Sesquicentennial State Park represents the broader civil rights movement and the struggle against white supremacy in South Carolina’s state parks specifically and in the nation’s history generally.

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY. The administrative history of the park offers unique opportunities for pulling back the curtain on how and why decisions were made by the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Sesquicentennial Commission, the South Carolina Commission of Forestry, and the South Carolina State Park Service about park stewardship, management, and interpretation.<sup>1</sup>

- The Civilian Conservation Corps and the South Carolina Commission of Forestry were responsible for one of the most significant environmental alterations to the park: the introduction of loblolly and slash pine.

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<sup>1</sup> On the idea of “pulling back the curtain” to showcase the interpretive fluidity of history, see Robert R. Weyeneth, “What I’ve Learned Along the Way: A Public Historian’s Intellectual Odyssey,” *The Public Historian* 36: 2 (May 2014), especially the final appeal on pages 21-25. [http://works.bepress.com/robert\\_weyeneth/12/](http://works.bepress.com/robert_weyeneth/12/)

- Sesquicentennial State Park has been used for much of the 20th century as a commemorative landscape to celebrate important historical events. Local citizens and later park officials used the celebrations of the Sesquicentennial of Columbia (1936), the Tricentennial of South Carolina (1970), and the Bicentennial of the United States (1976) to “construct” a history that tied the park to national narratives. From building the original Civilian Conservation Corps monument to bringing a replica of the short-lived *The Best Friend of Charleston* locomotive to the park, and to constructing the amphitheater to relocating the Log House, these initiatives occurred at specific moments of time in the history of the park and marked specific historical anniversaries in local, state, and national history.
- The objectives of park managers can be studied over time by analyzing the educational resources and entertainment opportunities provided to visitors at specific places throughout the park. These include the long-standing practice of using the park as a venue to showcase historical spectacles and to exhibit buildings with no connection to the site. In this sense, the park can be viewed as a “constructed landscape of recreation.”
- The structures and objects incorporated into Sesquicentennial State Park, like the Log House, the amphitheater, and *The Best Friend of Charleston*, represent attempts by the State Park Service to fill what they perceived as empty spaces, both geographically and historically, with a tangible link to South Carolina’s frontier past, a venue for mounting plays about the American Revolution, and a replica of an antebellum locomotive --- thereby giving the park a “history” to draw tourists and increase visitation.
- The enduring interest in “constructing” a history for Sesquicentennial State Park by linking it to national historical events has shifted focus away from localized stories. The specifics of the local story are both important and intriguing. For example, the story of turpentine extraction opens up questions about environmental and labor history using the particulars of the site. The story of desegregating the park inspires questions about race and political activism. These stories of place that are centered around events that shaped the history of Sesquicentennial State Park have the power of authenticity.

EDUCATION: THE MULTIPLE LAYERS OF HISTORY AT THE PARK. Because there is a record of continuous human habitation and use over centuries at the site now known as Sesquicentennial State Park, it is a place with multiple layers of history. This rich and layered history offers enormous opportunity for the park to teach visitors about environmental history, agricultural history, social history, and the administrative history of the park and thereby supplement the park’s long-standing mission of teaching natural history.

- Teaching visitors about human history augments the park’s long and distinguished educational legacy as an appealing outdoor classroom for visitors to learn about the natural and human history of the largest green space in the city of Columbia, which has provided opportunities for outdoor recreation in the Midlands for over 80 years.
- Although it is not original to the park, the Log House at Sesquicentennial State Park is purportedly one of the oldest buildings in Richland County and offers research opportunities

into the construction of 18th-century log structures, the challenges of relocating historic buildings, and the development of research related to dating historic structures.

- Weddell Fire Tower is a registered fire lookout, one of 1,287 in the United States and one of 34 in South Carolina. It is the only fire lookout in South Carolina located in a state park, which makes it a rare and exceptional cultural resource for teaching visitors about the Civilian Conservation Corps as well as the South Carolina Commission of Forestry's management and fire prevention efforts.
- Standing at an elevation of 452 feet, Weddell Fire Tower rises over Sesquicentennial State Park, offering a unique perspective, from above, of environmental change in modern Richland Country.



## Section IV. Site History

### A. Pre-Park History, c. 12,000 BCE – 1937

#### 1. Overview

The land that is now Sesquicentennial State Park has a rich and layered history. Its earliest human inhabitants were Indigenous people who settled the land between 12,000 and 10,000 BCE. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, these people likely included the Congaree, Wateree, Catawba or Cherokee tribes, the main tribes in what is now Richland County. European settlement dates to about 1740, and the first documented landowner, James Douglass, owned the land by 1842. Douglass enslaved up to eighteen people who farmed the land as well as operated a saw and grist mill. The Dent family acquired the land in 1886 and kept it until 1935. They used the land for extractive forest industries, particularly turpentine extraction, an industry where African Americans made up the vast majority of the labor force. The land that is now Sesquicentennial State Park also contained significant resources that were central to the African American community of Corley's Chapel. While only the cemetery is extant, at one time there was also a church and a school, indicating a thriving community that existed in and around the future park.

#### 2. Indigenous history, c. 12,000 BCE – c. 1740

The deep history of Sesquicentennial State Park extends far beyond the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century landowners or the park managers of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. From the soil to the forests, the land has been used for its natural resources and as a place inhabited by different groups of Indigenous people. The earliest archaeological evidence of Indigenous peoples across what is now the state of South Carolina dates to between 12,000 and 10,000 BCE.<sup>2</sup> The exact tribes, locations, and time periods for Indigenous habitation requires further research in the form of an archaeological survey and planned excavations.

The Congaree, Wateree, Catawba and Cherokee are the most notable tribes associated with the Richland County area.<sup>3</sup> The sources of water located on the land now known as Sesquicentennial State Park would have been a useful and desirable resource that attracted groups of Indigenous people to the land. Jackson Creek is known to have sustained semi-nomadic groups of Indigenous peoples during seasonal movement.

The earliest written documentation of Indigenous people in South Carolina generally come from the accounts of John Lawson, who set out from the coast for the interior of the land in December of

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<sup>2</sup> Jennifer F. Martin, Nicholas G. Theos, and Sarah A. Woodard, *Upper Richland County South Carolina Historical and Architectural Inventory* (Report prepared for the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 2002), 10.

<sup>3</sup> Martin, Theos, and Woodard, *Upper Richland County South Carolina Historical and Architectural Inventory*, 10.

1700.<sup>4</sup> Lawson described the Indigenous women he encountered in the area where the Saluda River and Broad River meet to form the Congaree River, but his descriptions are based on racist perceptions of Indigenous women as sexually promiscuous. Lawson wrote that Indigenous women were eager to engage sexually with the “white People” and that “English traders are seldom without an Indian Female for his Bedfellow.” European settlers likely leveraged their relationships with these women to engage in trade with Indigenous communities.<sup>5</sup>

During the 18th century, tension between Indigenous people and colonists in South Carolina escalated, resulting in military conflict. Some fifteen tribes attempted to drive away white colonists in the Yemassee War from 1715-1716, but this endeavor proved unsuccessful. Around this time the Congaree vacated central South Carolina and joined the Catawba tribe. By 1740 both the Congaree and Wateree tribes were no longer present in central South Carolina. The Cherokee War of 1760-1761 would likewise result in Cherokee migration from the area.<sup>6</sup> European colonists increasingly settled the area as they pushed out Indigenous tribes. Given the known interactions between European colonists and Indigenous groups in what is today Columbia, South Carolina and the state in general, it is likely that colonists residing in what is today Sesquicentennial State Park would have at least been aware of the presence of various Indigenous groups in the area.

Archaeological research in recent decades has revealed some evidence of Indigenous habitation. In 1975, researchers noted two possible Native American sites in the park, and each site lists a single component as “unknown prehistoric.” Spear heads and lithic flakes found in the park also provide evidence of groups forced from the land that is now the park.<sup>7</sup> A full archaeological survey of the park is recommended to further uncover the land’s deep past as an area used and lived upon by Indigenous peoples.

### **3. Slave-Based Agriculture, c. 1740 – 1865**

James Douglass (1797-1878) is the earliest documented owner of the land that would eventually become Sesquicentennial State Park. Phillip Jackson acquired land in the area during the 1740s, but it is unclear if he owned the land that Douglass later bought. Douglass acquired the land between 1825 and 1842.<sup>8</sup> Through the exploitation of enslaved laborers during the antebellum period, Douglass owned and operated a farm that produced food crops, dairy goods, and forest products consistent with agricultural

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<sup>4</sup> John Hammond Moore, *Columbia and Richland County: A South Carolina Community, 1740-1990* (Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 1993), 5.

<sup>5</sup> Martin, Theos and Woodard, *Upper Richland County South Carolina Historical and Architectural Inventory*, 7.

<sup>6</sup> Martin, Theos and Woodard, *Upper Richland County South Carolina Historical and Architectural Inventory*, 11.

<sup>7</sup> David Jones, Archaeologist with South Carolina State Parks, email to authors, 7 February 2019.

<sup>8</sup> Al Hester, Sesquicentennial State Park: Pre-Park History Notes, 3 November 2016, 2. Resource Management Offices, South Carolina State Park Service, Columbia.

production trends in Richland County during this time. Douglass's farm altered the area's natural landscape.

Douglass's wealth was built on the labor of enslaved people. By 1850, Douglass enslaved eleven African Americans who tended to livestock, as well as cultivated food crops.<sup>9</sup> By 1860, Douglass enslaved eighteen African Americans—five adult men, five adult women, and eight children—most of whose names are unknown.<sup>10</sup> Tena Bird, Nancy Taylor, and her daughter Teresa lived on the property and were listed as domestic servants according to the census of 1870, so it is possible that they were enslaved by Douglass prior to emancipation. Another possibly enslaved person was Wilson Taylor, who was likely Nancy Taylor's husband. He was also listed in the 1870 census as an ox driver.<sup>11</sup> The enslaved people lived in four houses on Douglass's farm.<sup>12</sup>

The agricultural products cultivated by enslaved African American and white laborers on Douglass's farm align with agricultural production patterns present in Richland County. Enslaved laborers tended to hogs and cultivated corn, both of which were the primary livestock and food crop cultivated in Richland County during this period.<sup>13</sup> They also cultivated oats in 1850, but by 1860 Douglass replaced oats with rye.<sup>14</sup> Similarly, Richland County's production of oats decreased significantly during this time period, while production of rye increased.<sup>15</sup> The crops Douglass cultivated were food crops. The records indicate that Douglass did not cultivate cotton, most likely because the land in the area was not suited for it. Enslaved laborers on the site also churned butter. The farm's butter production fell between 1850 and 1860, aligning with a similar trend throughout Richland County.<sup>16</sup> In addition to food goods, Douglass employed two wage laborers to operate a saw mill.<sup>17</sup> These laborers may have been free whites or free African Americans; however, they also may have been enslaved people "hired" or rented by Douglass. The saw mill was constructed on his property by at least 1842.<sup>18</sup> If the mill was on his property by the time of the 1840 agricultural census, Douglass's saw mill would've

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<sup>9</sup> Hester, Pre-Park History Notes, 3.

<sup>10</sup> Hester, Pre-Park History Notes, 2-3. The authors searched through Reconstruction-era labor liens for contracts involving James Douglass, but we did not find any definite connections to laborers that could have previously been enslaved. Record loss during the 1865 burning of Columbia also prevented research of deeds that could demonstrate sale of enslaved people to James Douglass.

<sup>11</sup> Hester, Pre-Park History Notes, 3-4.

<sup>12</sup> Hester, Pre-Park History Notes, 3.

<sup>13</sup> Hester, Pre-Park History Notes, 2-3; 1840 United States Federal Agricultural Census, Statistics of Agriculture for Richland County, 191-192; 1850 United States Federal Agricultural Census, Statistics of Agriculture for Richland County, 346.

<sup>14</sup> Hester, Pre-Park History Notes, 3.

<sup>15</sup> 1850 United States Federal Agricultural Census, Statistics of Agriculture for Richland County, 346; 1860 United States Federal Agricultural Census, Statistics of Agriculture for Richland County, 346. Richland County's oat production fell from around 344,000 bushels in 1850 to around 18,000 barrels in 1860. Rye production rose from 421 bushels to 640 bushels.

<sup>16</sup> 1850 United States Federal Agricultural Census, Statistics of Agriculture for Richland County, 347; 1860 United States Federal Agricultural Census, Statistics of Agriculture for Richland County, 130. Richland County's butter production fell from about 50,000 pounds in 1850 to about 33,000 pounds in 1860.

<sup>17</sup> Hester, Pre-Park History Notes, 3.

<sup>18</sup> Hester, Pre-Park History Notes, 2.

been one of twenty-one saw mills in Richland County at that time.<sup>19</sup> Douglass added a grist mill to his property between 1860 and 1870.<sup>20</sup> The alignment of Douglass's farm production with county-wide agricultural production patterns indicates that Douglass's farm can be considered an example of a typical antebellum farm in Richland County.

The mill operations as well as the livestock and crop cultivation that supported Douglass's livelihood altered the natural landscape. Douglass's land use patterns are apparent in the park's current appearance. The mills, Douglass's residence, and possibly some outbuildings were concentrated around the area that is the present-day spillway. Jackson Creek was dammed to form the pond that is the present-day lake in the park. Douglass used his saw and grist mills, powered by the pond, to turn the land's indigenous longleaf pine forests into lumber and corn into meal. The pond's floodplain was possibly the site where enslaved people cultivated corn and tended to hogs.<sup>21</sup>

#### **4. Labor and the Environment, 1865 – 1937**

James Douglass continued to own the land of what is now Sesquicentennial State Park until his death in 1878.<sup>22</sup> Emancipation and the period of Reconstruction after the Civil War saw enormous changes in terms of political organization and civil rights for African Americans. While Reconstruction fundamentally changed labor relations between white and black South Carolinians, many formerly enslaved people continued to engage in the same kinds of work in the same places they had labored as enslaved people. Therefore, it is likely that many of the people James Douglass enslaved in 1860 remained on the land in the post-war years, engaging in agricultural work as well as labor at the saw and grist mill. They may have negotiated wages for labor or tenancy agreements, although documentation unfortunately does not exist to confirm either.<sup>23</sup> The saw and grist mill were in operation until they burned down in 1873 and were an important fixture in the community. *The Daily Phoenix*, the local Columbia newspaper, notes their significant loss:

We regret to learn that the saw and grist mill belonging to Capt. James Douglass, residing about nine miles from the city, was destroyed by fire on Wednesday morning last, about 12 o'clock. Besides the pecuniary loss – which is about \$1,200 – the neighbors will be inconvenienced as this was the only grist mill in the neighborhood. The cause of the fire is unknown.<sup>24</sup>

After James Douglass's death, the land passed through a series of owners until John Dent and his son, John B. Dent, jointly purchased the 1,488 acres in 1886, each owning half of the land. When John Dent died in 1897, his portion of the land passed to John B. Dent. Upon John B. Dent's death, in 1899, the land passed to his heirs: his widow, Rebecca A. Dent, and his children Walter Kingsley Dent, Henry

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<sup>19</sup> 1840 United States Federal Agricultural Census, Statistics of Agriculture for Richland County, 200.

<sup>20</sup> Hester, Pre-Park History Notes, 2.

<sup>21</sup> Hester, Pre-Park History Notes, 2.

<sup>22</sup> Hester, Pre-Park History Notes, 1.

<sup>23</sup> The authors reviewed liens for Richland County from 1870 - 1876 housed at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, but there were no entries for liens involving James Douglass. L 40006 Richland County (S.C.), Register of Mesne Conveyances, Agricultural lien books, 1870-1876, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, SC.

<sup>24</sup> "Fire," *The Daily Phoenix* [Columbia, SC]: 11 April 1873.

Sowden Dent, Janie Marion Dent and John Dent.<sup>25</sup> The Dent family used the land primarily for logging and turpentine extraction, dramatically affecting the environment and very likely reinforcing racialized labor structures common in the industry.

**(a) Context: The Naval Stores Industry.** Turpentine extraction and production in South Carolina dates back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Early British colonists and the laborers they enslaved extracted turpentine from longleaf pine and exported it to Europe as part of the naval stores industry. Naval stores, including tar, pitch, and turpentine, were so called because they were used in the shipping industry, something Britain in particular coveted in the colonial era. The British government established bounties in the 18<sup>th</sup> century to encourage production and exportation of naval stores, galvanizing the industry in the British colonies.<sup>26</sup>

While there was some turpentine production in South Carolina in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the industry quickly concentrated in North Carolina, particularly the eastern part of the state, where it remained dominant until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. As extraction of naval stores alongside logging depleted pine forests in North Carolina, the turpentine industry moved southward, dramatically expanding South Carolina after 1850.<sup>27</sup> In the post-Civil War years, especially after 1880, turpentine production spread further southward into Georgia, Alabama, and Florida.

While turpentine production did expand into South Carolina before the Civil War, it was confined mostly to the coastal plain in the antebellum era and did not expand as much into the Midlands until the 1870s and 1880s.<sup>28</sup> Even through 1880, Richland County was not a significant producer of turpentine.<sup>29</sup> Therefore, it is unlikely that turpentine was extracted from the longleaf pine trees at what is now Sesquicentennial State Park until after the Dent family bought the land beginning in 1886. Additionally, while the industrial censuses do mention that James Douglass owned and operated a grist and saw mill on the property, no mention is made of any involvement in turpentine.<sup>30</sup>

In the 1880s, the turpentine industry expanded significantly in Richland County. In 1885, the *News and Courier* reported that there were seventeen turpentine stills in Richland County.<sup>31</sup> Turpentine and logging often went hand and hand. Trees could be tapped for turpentine and when the turpentine was exhausted, they could be cut down and used for logging. Trees were often tapped for turpentine

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<sup>25</sup> Hester, Pre-Park History Notes, 5.

<sup>26</sup> Robert B. Outland, III, *Tapping the Pines: The Naval Stores Industry in the American South* (Louisiana State University Press: Baton Rouge), 2004, 13.

<sup>27</sup> Ernest M. Lander, "Manufacturing in South Carolina, 1815-60," *The Business History Review* 28, no. 1 (1954): 59–66, <https://doi.org/10.2307/3111445>, 60.

<sup>28</sup> Outland, *Tapping the Pines*, 139.

<sup>29</sup> 1880 United States Federal Industrial Census, Manufacturing Schedule, 355.

<sup>30</sup> 1870 United States Federal Census, Manufacturing Schedule.

<sup>31</sup> Christopher Ohm Clement, *Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Plantations and Farms in the Center and Lower Townships of Richland County, South Carolina* (prepared for The South Carolina National Guard by the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, March 2009), <http://nationalregister.sc.gov/SurveyReports/HC40001.pdf>, 18.



Figure A.1. *Chipping the Tree.* A chipper removes the bark to stimulate sap flow (location unknown, not taken at Sesquicentennial), Courtesy, South Carolina Forestry Commission.

for three to six years before being timbered.<sup>32</sup> Between the time the Dents purchased the land in 1886 and 1900, turpentine extraction and logging at the site grew. In 1900, after a passing train sparked a fire that went through the land, the Dent family filed suit against the railroad company. In the ensuing lawsuit, they sought and won damages from the railroad company for damage to the timber and to the turpentine boxes.<sup>33</sup>

**(b) Turpentine Production: A Racialized Labor System.** While no payroll records from the Dent family are extant, it is extremely likely that the people extracting turpentine from longleaf pine in what is now Sesquicentennial State Park were African American. Turpentine extraction was a highly racialized industry, and throughout its history African Americans made up the vast majority of the workforce.

In the antebellum era, almost all people laboring in turpentine extraction were enslaved and working in plantation settings. Turpentine operated as a cash crop and was the third largest U.S. export behind cotton and tobacco. By 1860, 15,000 enslaved people were laboring in the extraction and production of turpentine.<sup>34</sup> They labored in the forests where turpentine was extracted and in distilleries where crude turpentine was manufactured into product ready for sale and export. In 1861, *The Scientific American* reported on turpentine production in North and South Carolina. According to their reporter, “in every branch of labor, hardly a white man is to be seen,” although white men were employed as overseers and occasionally as laborers.<sup>35</sup>

In the post-Civil War era, this labor arrangement continued with mostly African Americans working in the production of turpentine. Turpentine work was labor-intensive, often dirty, and was seen by many whites of the era as a job exclusively for African Americans. In fact, turpentine work was so racialized that it gave rise to the widely-used term “Turpentine Negro” or its even more offensive counterpart using a racial slur.<sup>36</sup>



Figure A.2. *Dipping Crude Turpentine.* A dipper collects the crude turpentine (location unknown, not taken at Sesquicentennial). Courtesy, South Carolina Forestry Commission.

<sup>32</sup> Cassandra Y. Johnson and Josh McDaniel, “Turpentine Negro,” in *To Love the Wind and the Rain*, ed. Dianne D. Glave and Mark Stoll, African Americans and Environmental History (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2006), <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctt5hjs5p.9>, 54.

<sup>33</sup> Hester, Pre-park History Notes, 5.

<sup>34</sup> Michael David Tegeder, “Prisoners of the Pines,” (PhD Dissertation, University of Florida) 1996, 90.

<sup>35</sup> “Making Turpentine,” *Scientific American* vol. 4, no. 6, February 9, 1861, 90.

<sup>36</sup> Johnson and McDaniel, “Turpentine Negro.”



Figure A.3. *Turpentine-Scarred Tree*. This tree is one of three in the camping area that bear identifiable scars of turpentine extraction.

Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the process of turpentine extraction changed very little. It was a seasonal industry that operated roughly from March to November. A “chipper” would create a hollow in the base of the tree, known as a turpentine “box,” and then “chip” away the bark of the tree to allow the gum or sap to flow into the hollow (see Figure A.1). A “dipper” would then come and transfer the collected sap to be transferred to a distillery to be distilled into turpentine (see Figure A.2). Chipping and dipping would continue throughout the season. The chipper would chip away the bark in a chevron pattern starting at the base of the tree and working their way up. At least three trees remain in Sesquicentennial State Park that bear marks of turpentine extraction. They are located in the campground area at campsites 44 and 77 (see Figure A.3).

Just as turpentine production moved from North Carolina to South Carolina as pine forests were depleted, resource exhaustion eventually pushed turpentine production further south into Georgia, Florida and Alabama in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. By 1910, *The Charleston Evening Post* reported that the turpentine industry had “all but disappeared from South Carolina.”<sup>37</sup> Production remained a highly racialized labor system and became increasingly coercive, characterized by debt peonage and convict labor. Producers further south would often recruit turpentine workers from the Carolinas to work in the turpentine camps in the Deep South.<sup>38</sup>

**(c) Impact on the Landscape.** The practices of logging and turpentine extraction led to the eventual deforestation of the site now known as Sesquicentennial State Park. In large part this was due to extraction practices that utilized greater quantities of resources than the land could naturally replenish. Turpentine extraction relied heavily on longleaf pine forests. As early as 1905, the extraction of natural resources had begun to take a noticeable toll:

A considerable forest of the long-leaf pine (*Pinus Palustris*), apparently almost extinct in the region around Columbia, is noticeable, lying on Gill’s Creek watershed to the north of Dent’s Pond . . . The uplands [north of Dent’s Pond] . . . have considerable forests of long-leaf pine and scrub oak. The pine has been boxed for turpentine and partly abandoned, much having been cut for lumber. The remaining trees are usually decrepit and in anything but a thrifty condition. A hopeful feature, however, is the great number of young long-leaf pines which are coming up in the scrub oak wherever the conditions are favorable and where they are not killed by the repeated fires which evidently frequently pass through these forests.<sup>39</sup>

The loss of longleaf pine can also be attributed to another factor besides overuse. Relative to other trees, longleaf pine matures slowly. Contrary to the assertion that fires damaged longleaf pine forests,

<sup>37</sup> “Turpentine Men are Going South,” *Charleston Evening Post* [Charleston, SC], 8 December 1910.

<sup>38</sup> Tegeder, “Prisoners of the Pines,” 50.

<sup>39</sup> Kelsey and Guild Landscape Architects, *The Improvement of Columbia, South Carolina: Report to the Civic League, Columbia, South Carolina* (1905), pp. 23, 67-68, cited in Hester, Pre-Park Notes.



longleaf pine not only survives frequent forest fires, but thrives as a result of them. Forest fires eliminated competing vegetation for space and more importantly canopy or access to sunlight. Longleaf pines have several biological adaptations that allow them to thrive in the event of a wildfire, such as: “waxy needles, the ability to remain dormant for an extended time, and most importantly a much thicker layer of outer bark than other pine trees.”<sup>40</sup>

By the time the Dent family sold their land in 1937 to create Sesquicentennial State Park, the vast majority of longleaf pine had vanished from the landscape. Only a fraction of the original forest remained at the site.

## **5. African American Community: The Story of Corley’s Chapel**

After the Civil War and amidst Jim Crow racial codes, schools and churches formed a crucial social network for the growing African American community around the future Sesquicentennial State Park. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, part of the area that is now the park was the site of Corley’s Chapel Church and Corley’s Chapel School that served the local black community.

The end of the Civil War ushered in social and economic changes for African Americans in Richland County. Five years after the war’s end, the number of farms in Richland County totaled 1138, a 450% increase from 203 farms in 1860.<sup>41</sup> The majority of farms after 1870 ranged from 10 to 50 acres.<sup>42</sup> However, farming was far less prominent in the Center Township of Richland County (the area around Sesquicentennial State Park). Commonly referred to as “the Sandhills,” the Center Township lacked large-scale farming operations due to less productive agricultural lands.<sup>43</sup> Instead, turpentine stills, grist mills, and lumber mills continued to define the landscape of the Center Township after the Civil War.<sup>44</sup> The Center Township also had a lower density of African American population compared to Lower Richland County.

African Americans were the primary labor force for operating the varying production mills in the Center Township. However, African Americans also rented and owned small farms in the Center Township. In addition to labor changes that occurred after the Civil War, African Americans increasingly formed their own church congregations. According to the 1897 Survey Map of Richland County, 25 churches dotted the area. Out of those 25, only 4 were located in the Center Township. Corley’s Chapel is not shown on the 1897 Map, possibly indicating that the map accounted for only white churches. The

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<sup>40</sup> Jennifer L. Schafer, Bradley P. Breslow, Matthew G. Hohmann, and William A. Hoffmann, “Relative Bark Thickness Is Correlated with Tree Species Distributions Along a Fire Frequency Gradient,” *Fire Ecology* 11, no. 1 (2015): 74–87.

<sup>41</sup> Clement, *Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Plantations and Farms in the Center and Lower Townships of Richland County, South Carolina*, 15.

<sup>42</sup> Clement, *Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Plantations and Farms in the Center and Lower Townships of Richland County, South Carolina*, 15.

<sup>43</sup> Clement, *Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Plantations and Farms in the Center and Lower Townships of Richland County, South Carolina*, 16.

<sup>44</sup> Clement, *Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Plantations and Farms in the Center and Lower Townships of Richland County, South Carolina*, 18.



low number of churches correlated with the lower population density of individuals living in the Center Township compared to the population in Lower Richland.<sup>45</sup>

**(a) Church.** Although the physical building of Corley's Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) church does not remain today (adjacent to the historic cemetery off Polo Road, along the eastern border of Sesquicentennial State Park), historic research helps to reconstruct its role in the African American community in the area. William Pulaski Corley founded Corley's Chapel in the Center Township of Richland County, and it is referenced in sources as both Corley Chapel and Corley's Chapel interchangeably. William Pulaski Corley served in Company A of the 137<sup>th</sup> U.S. Colored Infantry during the Civil War. Interestingly, Corley assumed the alias of Frederick Pulaski while fighting in the war.<sup>46</sup>

The AME church in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was organized according to a hierarchical structure under which individual churches were organized within regional districts led by a Presiding Elder. Individual churches were sometimes further gathered within circuits: for example, the Eastern Circuit and the Columbia Circuit were both within the Columbia District. The circuits were essentially local associations of several small churches in the area that usually shared a pastor and even a congregation which traveled from church to church in the circuit depending on the weekend. In the earlier years of the AME



Figure A.4. William Pulaski Corley's Tombstone. The tombstone notes that Corley was the founder of Corley's Chapel and a Civil War soldier.

church in South Carolina, these could have been brush arbor churches—churches which consisted of a covered arbor or roof on wooden poles with open sides, often built by freedpeople before a physical building could be built—or churches that consisted of buildings that shared resources.

While the exact founding date of Corley's Chapel Church is unknown, much can be discovered by tracing the church through the Proceedings of the Quarto-Centennial Conference of the AME Church of South Carolina, published in 1890. In 1880, the Columbia District, led by Rev. David Pickett, did not include an

<sup>45</sup> M. L. Brasswell, "1897 Map of Richland County," South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

<sup>46</sup> United States Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934, *Ancestry.com*, Series Number: T288, Roll 546, accessed 19 April 2019; National Park Service, "Soldier Details: Fredericks Pulaski," accessed 19 April 2019, <https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-soldiers-detail.htm?soldierId=0C9FCC9E-DC7A-DF11-BF36-B8AC6F5D926A>.

entry for Corley's Chapel.<sup>47</sup> It is conceivable that Corley's Chapel was not listed individually because it was a young church or part of a larger church circuit, but this cannot be verified with the available information. In 1881 there was an explosion of new churches listed in the Columbia District, several of them missions, which were early or young churches just begun.<sup>48</sup> By 1881 Corley's Chapel was one of the missions listed, with Morris Cooke as the pastor, under the Columbia District with Rev. David Pickett still in the role of Presiding Elder. Morris Cooke was Corley's Chapel's pastor again in 1882, but in 1883 Corley's Chapel disappeared from the Columbia District listing and reappeared in 1887.<sup>49</sup> It remains unclear if Corley's Chapel was folded into the Columbia Circuit for those years or if there is another reason for the church's disappearance from the record for those three years. In 1882, Corley's Chapel was one of forty-two AME churches in Columbia, with its congregation contributing to Columbia's AME membership of 3,766.<sup>50</sup> In 1887, Corley's Chapel reappeared with Dennis Watson as pastor, who remained at Corley's Chapel for 1888 as well, under Rev A. Weston as the Presiding Elder.<sup>51</sup> In 1889, Corley's Chapel was now referenced as a circuit, with J.S. Perrin as pastor under Presiding Elder R.E. Wall.<sup>52</sup> (At this time, Dennis Watson was moved to Cedar Grove, another church in the Columbia District). In 1889, Columbia's AME membership dropped to 3,450, but the number of churches increased to 45.<sup>53</sup>

Information on Corley's Chapel after 1889 becomes sparse as it is the last year documented in the Proceedings of the Quarto-Centennial Conference. Corley's Chapel likely continued to operate at least through 1916. In the 1916 United States Department of Agriculture Historical Soil Survey map of Richland County, the symbol used to mark all churches—a small circle topped by a cross—appeared on the probable church site (see Figure A.5).<sup>54</sup>

However, by 1935 the Killian Quadrangle of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Topographic Map shows the site as only a cemetery (symbolized by a dotted square with a cross in the middle).<sup>55</sup> This indicates that the Corley's Chapel church building ceased to exist sometime between 1916 and 1935. Without a building, it is possible the church moved to a different location under a different name, or the church simply disbanded and the congregation joined other AME churches in the area. More research is needed to determine what became of Corley's Chapel and its congregation during its final days.

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<sup>47</sup> *Proceedings of the Quarto-Centennial Conference of the African M.E. Church of South Carolina, Charleston, S.C., May 15, 16 and 17, 1889*, ed. Bishop Benjamin W. Arnett, Presiding Bishop of the State of South Carolina and Florida, 1890, page 282.

<sup>48</sup> *Proceedings of the Quarto-Centennial Conference of the African M.E. Church of South Carolina*, 285.

<sup>49</sup> *Proceedings of the Quarto-Centennial Conference of the African M.E. Church of South Carolina*, 294-303.

<sup>50</sup> *Proceedings of the Quarto-Centennial Conference of the African M.E. Church of South Carolina*, 292.

<sup>51</sup> *Proceedings of the Quarto-Centennial Conference of the African M.E. Church of South Carolina*, 307.

<sup>52</sup> *Proceedings of the Quarto-Centennial Conference of the African M.E. Church of South Carolina*, 315.

<sup>53</sup> *Proceedings of the Quarto-Centennial Conference of the African M.E. Church of South Carolina*, 317.

<sup>54</sup> *Richland County, 1916*, (United States Department of Agriculture Historical Soil Survey Maps of South Carolina: 1916), USDA Historical Soil Survey Maps of South Carolina Digital Collection at the University of South Carolina, Columbia.

<sup>55</sup> Killian Quadrangle, (United States Geological Survey Topographic Maps: 1935), [usgs.gov/topoview](https://usgs.gov/topoview).



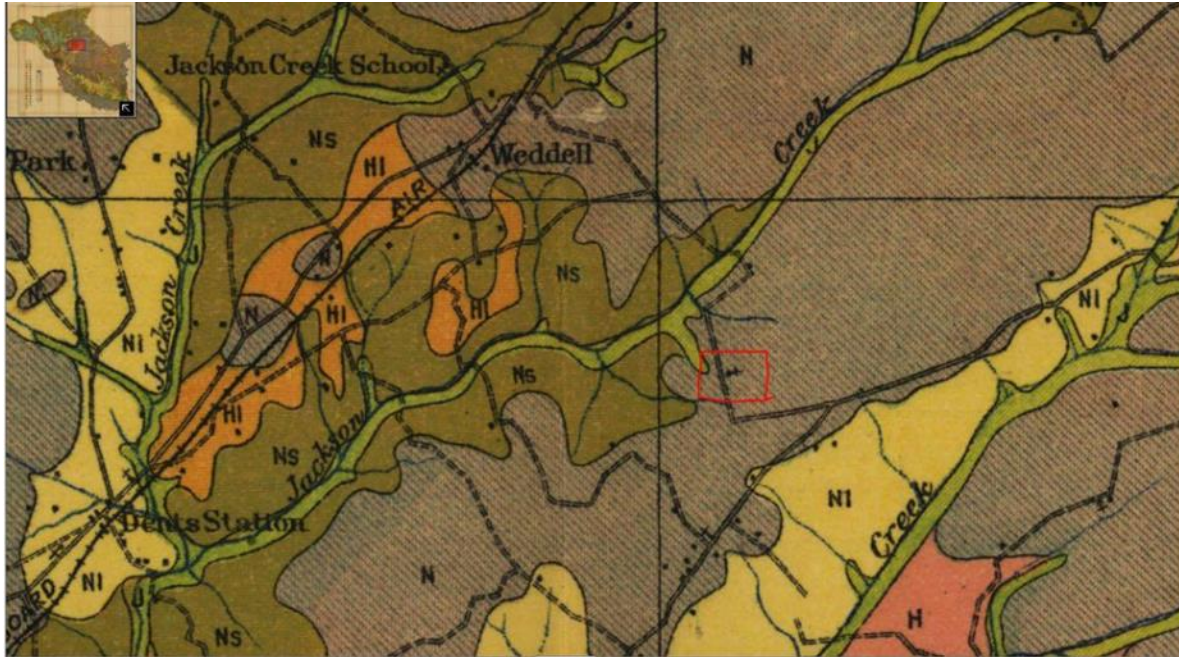


Figure A.5. 1916 Richland County USDA Historical Soil Survey Map of South Carolina. The possible site of Corley's Chapel is outlined in the red box.

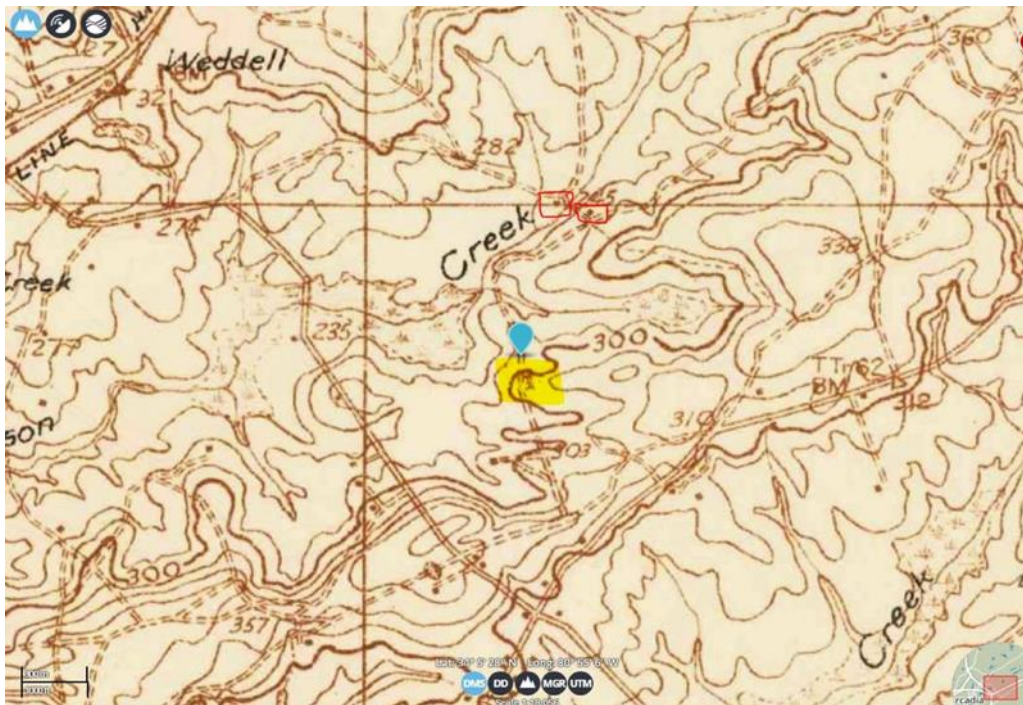


Figure A.6. Killian Quadrangle of the 1935 USGS Topographic Map. Corley Chapel is now marked as a cemetery (highlighted in yellow), with a clear road bed (dotted parallel lines) going from the site to the area of possible tenant farming. Two potential tenant house sites are marked in red boxes. Black squares along roadbeds may also indicate locations of housing associated with tenant farming.

The 1935, and similar 1937, USGS Topographic Maps of Killian Quadrangle are also useful in uncovering the Corley's Chapel story because they document the roads and other structures at the time, which helps to place Corley's Chapel as a component within its historical community. Roads are documented using a set of parallel dotted lines, while other small structures like houses, are marked by a simple small black square. The road that leads to the Corley's Chapel site in 1935 does not exist today as a drivable road but remains as an unpaved path into Sesquicentennial State Park that connects to the cemetery. As seen on the topographic map in Figure A.6, in 1935 this road cut a wide path through the land that would become the park just two years later and curved into the floodplain area below the current lake and Jackson's Creek.<sup>56</sup> The road leads right past two marked structures which are at the southern end of the current lake - which is likely a tenant house site(s). Given that there is a tangible historical connection—the old roadbed—between the Corley's Chapel site and potential house sites strongly suggests that Corley's Chapel played an integral role within the community of people who both lived within and immediately around the future park.

**(b) School.** Along with churches, schools were an important resource for African Americans in the post-Civil War South. Schools united local communities and provided a means of intellectual freedom that enabled African Americans to access economic, political, and other wealth-based freedoms that were routinely denied to them by Jim Crow legislation and white backlash. The school at the Corley's Chapel site would have filled such a role for the black community around the future park.

In the *1913 Annual Report of State Superintendent of Education of the State of South Carolina*, Corley's Chapel is listed as an African American school in the Center Township (see Figure A.7). The report lists Corley's Chapel as a one-room schoolhouse residing on one acre, owned by district 10. Made of wood and worth \$150, the schoolhouse held 28 boys and 33 girls and had an average of 44 attending students in a school year. There was one female teacher who was paid a salary of \$50.00. It is believed that the school building was distinct from the church building because the 1913 report lists the schoolhouse as owned by the district. At this time, the church building would have still been in operation (according to the 1916 soil survey), so it not likely that the district would have owned or operated the active church building as a school. All of these students are listed as traveling to school within a three-mile radius, which demonstrates not only the high value the community placed on education, but how the school served an important role as a community institution.

However, two years later, the 1915 School District Map for Richland County does not show Corley's Chapel as a school. The 1915 School District Map indicates that Jackson's Creek runs between the school districts of Jackson's Creek (District 18) and East Midway (District 17). The map shows Jackson's Creek Church and school located near Two-Notch Road, miles from the expected location of Corley's Chapel. Corley's Chapel should be located in East Midway, northwest of Percival Road. Interestingly, High Hill school is identified as a "colored" school in East Midway. High Hill is also located off of Percival road, near the surmised location of the Corley's Chapel schoolhouse. Perhaps Corley's Chapel ceased to exist as a schoolhouse by 1915, prompting the creation of a new "colored"

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<sup>56</sup> Killian Quadrangle, 1935, USGS Topographical Maps, [usgs.gov/topoview](https://usgs.gov/topoview).



schoolhouse to support the community's education needs. Further research is needed on High Hill and its potential relationship to Corley's Chapel.<sup>57</sup>

Name of School.	Number of District.	Total Amount Paid for Salaries.	Total Amount Paid for All Other Purposes.	Material of Schoolhouse.	Number of Classrooms.	Value of Schoolhouse.	Is the Building Owned by the District?	Size of School Grounds (Acres and Decimals).	Total Present Value of House Plus Grounds.	Value of all Furniture and Apparatus (School Equipment).	How Many Grades in the School?
Corley's Chapel	10	\$50 00	\$200 00	Wood	1	\$150 00	Yes	1	\$225 00	\$50 00	5
Bridge Creek	10	50 00	2 00	Wood	1	.....	No	.....	.....	25 00	3
Killians	10	50 00	2 65	Wood	1	.....	No	.....	.....	25 00	3
Gum Spring	11	70 00	.....	Wood	1	200 00	Yes	1	225 00	50 00	5
Toms Creek	11	70 50	.....	Wood	1	200 00	Yes	1	225 00	50 00	5
Sand Pond	11	70 00	.....	Wood	1	.....	No	.....	.....	50 00	3
Waverly—Consolidated	12	1,825 00	1,039 62	Wood	11	4,174 86	Yes	9	7,074 86	400 00	6
Booker Washington	13	260 00	128 35	Wood	3	1,200 00	Yes	1	1,400 00	275 00	6
Crane Creek	13	225 00	50 00	Wood	2	600 00	Yes	1	650 00	50 00	6
Hyatt Mission	13	100 00	25 00	Wood	1	.....	No	.....	.....	25 00	3
Nelson	13	100 00	25 00	Wood	1	300 00	Yes	1	350 00	50 00	5
Pinewood	14	150 00	35 10	Wood	1	250 00	Yes	1	325 00	250 00	6
Friendship	14	145 00	35 00	Wood	1	250 00	Yes	1	325 00	200 00	6
Beulah	14	145 00	25 00	Wood	1	.....	No	.....	.....	200 00	6
Arthur	15	100 00	20 00	Wood	1	.....	No	.....	.....	50 00	3
Lewis	15	100 00	19 25	Wood	1	.....	No	.....	.....	50 00	3
Reedy Point	15	95 00	15 00	Wood	1	.....	No	.....	.....	50 00	3
Mill Creek	15	100 00	15 00	Wood	1	350 00	Yes	1	400 00	50 00	6
Taylor	16	385 00	8 00	Wood	2	1,000 00	Yes	.75	1,350 00	150 00	5
Pine Grove	17	60 00	5 00	Wood	1	.....	No	.....	.....	30 00	5
Vansant	17	81 00	5 00	Wood	1	300 00	Yes	1	.....	30 00	6
Nicholas	17	74 25	6 50	Wood	1	.....	No	.....	.....	30 00	5
Boyd Hill	17	74 25	5 00	Wood	1	200 00	Yes	1	.....	30 00	6
Younginer	17	60 00	5 00	Wood	1	.....	No	.....	.....	30 00	5

Name of School.	No. of District	Length of Session in Days (Omitting Saturdays and Sundays.)		Yearly Enrollment			Yearly Average Attendance			No. of Pupils who come three miles or more.	Number of Teachers Employed.						Total
		In Town Schools	In Country Schools	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total		Men			Women			
											1st Grade	2d Grade	3d Grade	1st Grade	2d Grade	3d Grade	
Corley's Chapel	10	60	28	33	61	20	24	44	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Bridge Creek	10	60	15	20	35	10	19	29	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Killians	10	60	40	35	75	28	30	58	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Gum Spring	11	60	50	31	81	12	13	25	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Toms Creek	11	60	19	23	42	12	14	26	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Sand Pond	11	60	19	15	34	12	8	20	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Waverly—Consolidated	12	150	200	384	574	180	253	433	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Booker Washington	13	100	54	76	130	41	35	76	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Crane Creek	13	100	50	109	159	29	67	96	14	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Hyatt Mission	13	100	36	88	124	19	11	30	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Nelson	13	100	20	17	37	10	9	19	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Pinewood	14	100	47	65	102	29	33	62	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Friendship	14	100	61	42	103	27	26	53	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Beulah	14	100	59	61	120	37	38	75	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Arthur	15	100	52	42	94	24	33	57	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Lewis	15	100	37	46	83	19	20	39	14	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Reedy Point	15	100	28	43	71	25	28	53	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Mill Creek	15	100	67	95	162	29	53	82	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Taylor	16	140	67	75	142	27	27	54	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Pine Grove	17	60	28	43	71	20	27	47	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Vansant	17	60	50	39	89	36	39	75	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Nicholas	17	60	47	41	88	33	28	61	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Boyd Hill	17	60	25	32	57	16	29	45	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Younginer	17	60	21	29	50	14	24	38	15	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	

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Figure A.7. Excerpts from the 1913 Annual Report of the State Superintendent of Education of the State of South Carolina. Corley's Chapel is listed first on each page.

<sup>57</sup>1915 School District Map of Richland County, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

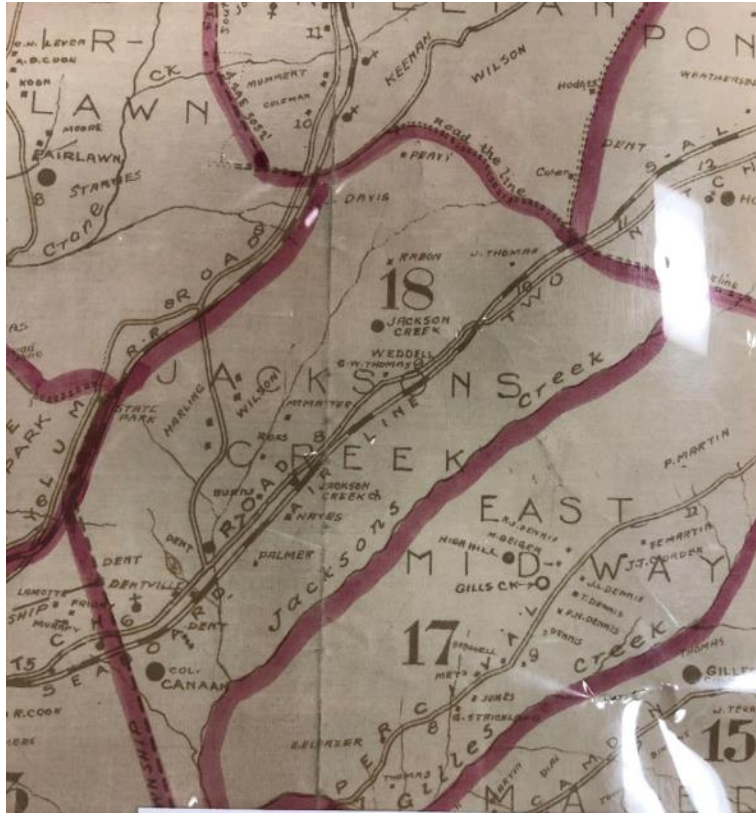


Figure A.8. School District Map of Richland County, 1915. As annotated on the map, Jackson's Creek runs through the Jackson's Creek and East Midway school districts. If Corley's Chapel existed as a school, it would have been located in East Midway, west of Percival Road. High Hill is indicated as a "colored" school only slightly north of the vanished Corley's Chapel, suggesting the High Hill school facilitated the education for the African American community around the future State Park.

**(c) Cemetery.** The cemetery at Corley's Chapel is all that remains of the early church and school. There are 36 identifiable gravesites at the cemetery. Further research may suggest that unmarked grave sites exist, further connecting this cemetery to enslaved people on the Douglass and Dent land. The cemetery is a majority African American cemetery; however, several individuals may be considered racially ambiguous. The data in Table 1 illustrates the number of individuals working in the farm industry, the location of their labor, and their race according to census records.<sup>58</sup> Research suggests that several individuals buried at Corley's Chapel owned, rented, and worked farmland around the site that became Sesquicentennial State Park (7 individuals near Percival Road and 2 near Two-Notch Road). The most significant participation in small-scale farming was in 1910. Four tenant farmers and two farm owners are identified, along with four laborers who worked the land of their father or

husband. Only one farmer rented land beyond the Center Township of Richland County. The 1910 Census also provides insight into the flexible categories of race in Richland County. Out the 14 African Americans listed in the census, 6 were considered "mulatto." Racial categorization was constantly in flux for two families in the cemetery: the Foose and Jacobs family. Most of the Foose family—represented in the cemetery with 11 members—are considered "white" in the 1900 Census, "mulatto" in the 1910 Census, and "black" after the 1920 Census. Contrary to the Foose family, 6 out of the 7 Jacobs family were categorized as "black" in the 1900 Census, "mulatto" in 1910, "white" in 1920, and some considered "black" again in the 1930 Census. William Pulaski Corley, the founder of the church, is also classified as "mulatto" in the 1910 Census.

<sup>58</sup> For additional information on the individuals buried in the Corley's Chapel Cemetery, reference Appendix C: Pre-Park Individuals: Biographical and Genealogical Notes.

Table 1: Occupation, Race and Location of People Buried in Corley's Chapel Cemetery									
Census	Occupation				Location		Race		
	Farmer (R)	Farmer (O)	Farm Laborer	Other	Center Township	Other	B	W	M
1880			2		1	1	1		1
1900	2	1	3	6	10	2	8	4	
1910	4	2	4	4	12	2	8		6
1920	2	2	3	9	11	5	10	6	
1930	1	1	3	13	10	8	18		
1940		1	1	12	12	2	14		
<b>Key:</b>  <b>R=Rent; O=Own</b>  <b>B=Black; W=White; M=Mulatto</b>  <b>Other=includes jobs "not listed" or listed as "none"</b>									

For racially ambiguous people like the Foose and Jacobs families, the fluctuating meaning of race placed these individuals' social, political, and economic positions at risk. Thus, racially ambiguous people often sought the benefits of passing as white in the highly racialized 20<sup>th</sup>-century South. Racial passing—changing one's legal racial identity—occurred on a national level since the colonial period in American history; but during the antebellum period Southerners equated "slavery with blackness and freedom with whiteness."<sup>59</sup> By the 20<sup>th</sup> century, donning white identity often meant denying one's black identity and ancestry to experience the full benefits of citizenship that accompanied being perceived as white in the United States. In addition to physical appearance and denying black ancestry, racial passing required racially ambiguous people to publicly perform their whiteness through their associations and interactions with other white people in the local community.<sup>60</sup> For racially ambiguous people, "race was created and recreated every day through the workings of community institutions and individuals in daily life."<sup>61</sup> Perhaps the Foose and Jacobs families continued to embrace their black identities despite the

<sup>59</sup> Ariela Gross, *What Blood Won't Tell: A History of Race on Trial in America* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2008), Kindle, 70.

<sup>60</sup> Gross, *What Blood Won't Tell*, Kindle, 59, 142.

<sup>61</sup> Gross, *What Blood Won't Tell*, Kindle, 154.

benefits of whiteness, highlighting the bonds of kinship and community around the future location of Sesquicentennial State Park.

**(d) Corley's Chapel Land Ownership.** Although the land on which the modern-day Corley's Chapel Cemetery sits is owned by the state of South Carolina and managed by the Park Service, it has a curious and varied ownership history. Corley Chapel is significant as an active cemetery on park land. While the Park Service manages various inactive cemeteries, it does not typically manage land that includes active cemeteries.

The state had already owned a portion of Corley's Chapel cemetery as a part the park lands acquired when the park was built in 1937, but a portion of the cemetery and church site still remained privately owned. The Park Service acquired this remaining piece of Corley Chapel in 2004. It was sold to the state by the H.W. Hoefer Martial Trust for \$5.00, intended as a donation "since the majority of the cemetery is on park property."<sup>62</sup> The piece of land was a narrow and oblong strip of land along the park boundary on Polo Road and the modern Polo Road Elementary School.<sup>63</sup> The Park Service seemingly bought this land in order to preserve and maintain access to the cemetery (and to park grounds), as evidenced by to the small service road that enters the park from Polo Road in order to access the cemetery.<sup>64</sup> The H.W. Hoefer Marital Trust bought the land in 1994 from Herbert Hoefer (the individual), who bought it in 1964 as a 54 acre tract from Emma D. Gardner.<sup>65</sup> Emma D. Gardner bought the "Percival" land from a company named S.C. Elie and Bar and Co. in 1940.<sup>66</sup> Further research is needed to determine what kind of company this is, and who they bought the land from, but a poorly photocopied plat in the Sesquicentennial Deed File at the Park Services offices indicates that an Olivia S. Woods owned it at one point.<sup>67</sup> If further research is possible in the deed office, it might reveal who owned the land for Corley Chapel when it was functioning as an AME church. The history of Corley Chapel's land ownership is interesting not just as an active cemetery site on park land, but also because there are potentially two women landowners of the site.

## 6. Extant Cultural Resources

**(a) Pond.** The park's present-day lake is an expansion of the original millpond, the result of the damming of Jackson's Creek likely by James Douglass. During the Dent family ownership, it was called Dent's Pond. The pond is significant because it is indicative of the land's varied uses throughout the pre-park era. For Douglass, the pond provided water for livestock and crops and powered a grist and saw mill. The Dent family relied on the pond to power their extensive involvement in logging.

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<sup>62</sup> Steve McCalla, Letter to Bruce Taylor, January 4, 2000, Corley Chapel file, Sesquicentennial State Park files, Resource Management Offices, South Carolina State Park Service, Columbia.

<sup>63</sup> Survey Plat, December 21, 1999, Steadman Associates for H.W. Hoefer Estate, Columbia, SC.

<sup>64</sup> Steve McCalla, Letter to Bruce Taylor, 2000.

<sup>65</sup> Grantee Index to Deeds, Deed Book 484, Page 338, Richland County Register of Deeds, Columbia, SC.

<sup>66</sup> Grantor Index to Deeds, Deed Book EU, page 399, Richland County Register of Deeds, Columbia, SC.

<sup>67</sup> Sesquicentennial Deed File, Resource Management Offices, South Carolina State Park Service, Columbia.



**(b) *Saw mill remains.*** Remains of what appear to be a saw mill are present in Jackson Creek near the present-day lake. James Douglass and later the Dent family operated a saw mill powered by the millpond where nearby ruins remain today. The saw mill is significant because it demonstrates that Douglass and the Dent family depended on the exploitation and eventual deforestation of the land's indigenous longleaf pine forests to sustain their livelihoods, and in the process, they considerably altered the land's natural landscape.

**(c) *Turpentine-scarred trees.*** The park's current natural landscape bears remnants of the 19<sup>th</sup> century turpentine extraction process. At least three turpentine-scarred trees are present in the park. These trees are located in the park's campground near sites 44 and 77. Because turpentine extraction was a racialized industry in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the scarred trees are significant for their potential connection to African American labor history. The few extant scarred trees are indicative of one of the ways in which the land's natural resources were exploited to provide a livelihood for its owners before the park's creation. Additionally, because most longleaf pine trees tapped for turpentine eventually died and were cut for lumber, the trees that still exist are unique examples of how the turpentine extraction process altered the appearance of longleaf pine trees.

**(d) *Corley's Chapel Cemetery.*** Located along the southern boundary of the park, Corley's Chapel Cemetery is an African American cemetery that contains grave markers dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. The cemetery, and associated vanished church and school, are significant because they indicate the existence of a thriving African American community near the future park. The cemetery is also significant because of its physical connection to the park via the park's present-day trails, parts of which were roadbeds during the pre-park era.

**(e) *Loop, Sandhills, and Mountain Bike Trails.*** Portions of Sesquicentennial State Park's Loop, Sandhills, and Mountain Bike trails partially align with roadbeds present in a 1935 USGS topographical map. The present-day trails are significant because they demonstrate a tangible connection between land use and the pre-park community, especially the African American community of Corley's Chapel. For example, one old roadbed connects the Corley's Chapel site to two marked structures in the 1935 map, possibly tenant houses.

## **7. Vanished Cultural Resources**

**(a) *Douglass Residence and Outbuildings.*** James Douglass had a house and outbuildings on the land. These buildings and structures were likely concentrated around the park's present-day spillway, but their precise locations are unknown. The residence and outbuildings are significant for their association with Douglass himself—an antebellum slave-owning farmer who is the earliest documented owner of the land that would later become Sesquicentennial State Park.

**(b) *Quarters for Enslaved People.*** The 1860 Census Slave Schedule recorded that James Douglass's property included four structures that housed enslaved people. These quarters are significant for their association with the eighteen African American men, women, and children that were enslaved by Douglass during the antebellum era. The exact location of these quarters is unknown.

**(c) Grist Mill.** James Douglass operated a grist mill powered by the pond that is the park's present-day lake. The grist mill is significant because of its potential connection to African American wage or tenancy labor during Reconstruction. Additionally, the mill's destruction by fire in 1873 is significant because it was reportedly the only grist mill in the nearby vicinity.

**(d) Possible Tenant House(s).** The 1935 USGS topographic map, a 1947 aerial photograph of park land, and a 1947 photograph of a building visible from the lake reveal the existence of unidentified buildings in similar locations that could potentially be houses for tenant farmers. Because many African Americans were tenant farmers during this time in Richland County, and because of the Corley Chapel community's proximity to and physical connection with the park, it's possible that African Americans worked as tenant farmers on future park land. The possible tenant houses are significant because they are representative of a racialized system of labor deemed appropriate for African Americans, many of whom were barred from owning their own land in the decades after the Civil War and into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**(e) Corley's Chapel School.** It is likely that Corley's Chapel School was located close to the extant cemetery, but its exact location is unknown. The school is significant because it demonstrates how African Americans fostered educational opportunities for their communities in the midst of Jim Crow. The school's proximity to future park land, along with the roadbed that connects the Corley's Chapel area to the present-day park, indicates that the history of the pre-park era is intertwined with African American history.

**(f) Corley's Chapel Church.** Similar to the school, Corley's Chapel church was likely located close to the extant cemetery. Its exact location is unknown. The formation of Corley's Chapel is significant because it demonstrates how African Americans cultivated their own communities amid the violence and disenfranchisement of the Jim Crow era. One way that they did this was through forming their own places of worship to specifically serve their religious and social needs.

## B. The Sesquicentennial and the Creation of a Segregated Park, 1935 – 1941

### 1. Overview

The land that comprises Sesquicentennial State Park is a monument to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1786 founding of Columbia in 1936. Land was acquired from the Dent Family in 1937 in order to provide a state park for city residents with surplus funds from the Sesquicentennial Commission. Key members of the commission, such as James Henry Hammond and Helen Kohn Hennig, shaped the distinct commemoration that marked the park's origins. The commission worked in conjunction with the Commission of Forestry and the Civilian Conservation Corps to construct the park. The park was intended for recreational use to provide leisure time to South Carolinians and promote conservation as part of a state-wide initiative. Before the official opening in 1940, there was already high demand to use the park and for this reason the facilities were incrementally opened to the public. The park opened officially for white visitors on June 1, 1940, becoming enormously popular. There was never any doubt that the new state park would be racially separated. In fact, issues of race and segregation colored the entire Sesquicentennial celebration that spanned the years from 1936 to 1939. In addition to expressing a racialized approach to public space in South Carolina in the 1930s, the early years of Sesquicentennial State Park reflected the pivotal role of the Civilian Conservation Corps in building the state's first state park, conserving natural resources, and promoting good forest and fire management practices.

### 2. The Sesquicentennial Celebration

The Sesquicentennial Commission was created in February of 1935 and chaired by James Henry Hammond, a prominent lawyer and politician from Columbia.<sup>68</sup> The commission was tremendously active and creative in its four years of existence.<sup>69</sup> The decisions the Sesquicentennial Commission made to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Columbia indicate a unique ideological approach that was imprinted not only on the celebration itself, but on its outcomes. The historical events the commission chose to commemorate in the celebration, as well as the citizens and buildings it chose to praise, are telling of its members' vision of the present and future of Columbia. The creation of Sesquicentennial State Park is one of the most important legacies that the Sesquicentennial Commission bequeathed to Columbia. For this reason, the history of the commission—its particularities, decisions, and the celebrations of 1936—deserve further examination.

The Sesquicentennial Celebration was carefully planned and organized to represent the growth, development, and achievements of Columbia and its white citizens. Professional associations, clubs, churches, the mayor, city councilmen, officials of Richland County, and the governor of South Carolina were involved in planning the celebration. The “spirit of Columbia” was evoked to pay homage to:

Columbia of schools and colleges; of libraries, churches and hospitals, of charities and benevolencies [sic]; of traffic and trade; a Columbia whose people are the composite of those

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<sup>68</sup> For more detailed information about James Henry Hammond's role in the Sesquicentennial Commission, see subsection 4a.

<sup>69</sup> “Coins Sets to Go on Sale to Columbians,” *The State* [Columbia, SC], 27 June 1939.

gathered from every county of South Carolina, from a score of foreign countries; a friendly and liberal-minded people.<sup>70</sup>

A boasting tone is evident in their language, and the Sesquicentennial Commission put a great deal of effort to characterize Columbia, the “City of Endeavor,” as a thriving Southern town.<sup>71</sup> The commission wanted people not only to read about or hear about the celebrations in Columbia, but to travel to Columbia and see for themselves.

**(a) The Commission and its Achievements.** In addition to the Sesquicentennial Commission, a Historical Committee was created and chaired by Helen Kohn Hennig (also referred to as Mrs. Julian Hennig).<sup>72</sup> The members of this committee wrote about important events in Columbia’s history, edited by Hennig and published as a series of essays in *Columbia, Capital City of South Carolina, 1786 – 1936*. These members also were responsible for the planning, execution, and managing of the Sesquicentennial Celebration.



Figure B.1. Commemorative coin celebrating the 150th anniversary of the capital city of South Carolina. The coin was one of the Sesquicentennial Commission’s fundraising strategies. Courtesy, Walker Local and Family History Center at Richland Library, Digital Collections.

The self-supporting commission’s fundraising strategies were very successful.<sup>73</sup> Among them were the selling of coin sets and wooden nickels in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce. For the celebration week of March 1936, 25,000 coins were minted in the country’s three mints (Philadelphia, Denver, and San Francisco).<sup>74</sup> In 1939, long after the sesquicentennial year, the commission received 2,000 requests for the remaining 50 sets and 150 single coins of the collection. Helen Kohn Hennig, writing an article for *The State* in 1939, emphasized that the public “eagerly purchased” the commemorative coins.<sup>75</sup>

In total, the Sesquicentennial Commission managed to donate to the city an approximate total of \$25,000 from their profit of the coins and sets. The donation was divided up among the purchase of the grounds that host the park, land for the University of South Carolina, and additional historical markers for the city. The commission acquired 1,415.5 acres of land to create Sesquicentennial State Park for

<sup>70</sup> Helen Kohn Hennig, ed., *Columbia: Capital City of South Carolina 1786 – 1936* (Columbia, SC: The Columbia Sesquicentennial Commission, 1936), xii.

<sup>71</sup> Helen Kohn Hennig, *Columbia: Capital City of South Carolina 1786 – 1936*.

<sup>72</sup> The other members of the Historical Commission are A. S. Salley, Arney R. Childs, E. L. Green, Robert Moorman, R. L. Meriwether, Sadie Magill, Fitz Hugh McMaster, W. E. Gonzales, J. M. Bateman, and James Henry Hammond (ex officio).

<sup>73</sup> The other members of the Sesquicentennial Commission were L. B. Owens (treasurer), Helen Kohn Hennig (secretary), Jeff B. Bates, J. Macfie Anderson, William Lykes Jr. (ex officio), Ames Haltiwanger, and C. S. Lemon (ex officio).

<sup>74</sup> “Coin Sets to Go on Sale for Columbians,” *The State*, 27 June 1939.

<sup>75</sup> “Columbia Guide Book To Be Released To Public Today,” *The State*, 13 July 1939.

\$14,857.50 from the Dent family and then turned it over to the South Carolina Commission of Forestry. From the remaining sum, \$6,000 was spent in a land on Pickens Street, bestowed upon the University of South Carolina for an arboretum, and \$3,000 was set aside to erect fifty new historical markers.

As part of the historical marker program, in 1939 the Historical Committee published a guide book with eighty-three pages and an index for the city, titled *A Guide Book to Columbia, South Carolina's Capital City*.<sup>76</sup> The fifty new markers the committee had chosen, researched, designed, written, and purchased are listed in detail in the guide, including the annotations.

**(b) Objectives of Celebration.** The Sesquicentennial Commission envisioned the celebration with some specific agendas in mind, encompassing civic, historical, educational, social, and commercial goals. The commission was adamant in showing the grandeur of Columbia's history and the illustriousness of its protagonists as models for not only the state but the nation. The Historical Committee, chaired by Helen Kohn Hennig, was formed to rewrite the history of the city according to the commission's vision. In Hennig's words, "the history of Columbia had been written by the best scholars of the city."<sup>77</sup>

Besides the civic goal of promoting the city's historical accomplishments, the celebration of Columbia had a strong educational character that was reinforced in speeches by the commission's members as well as in promotional materials. The commission itself forwarded letters to schools calling students to participate in the celebration. Later on, the state superintendent of education James H. Hope sent a letter asking all superintendents of South Carolina schools to cancel classes to allow students from all over the state to attend the celebration events.

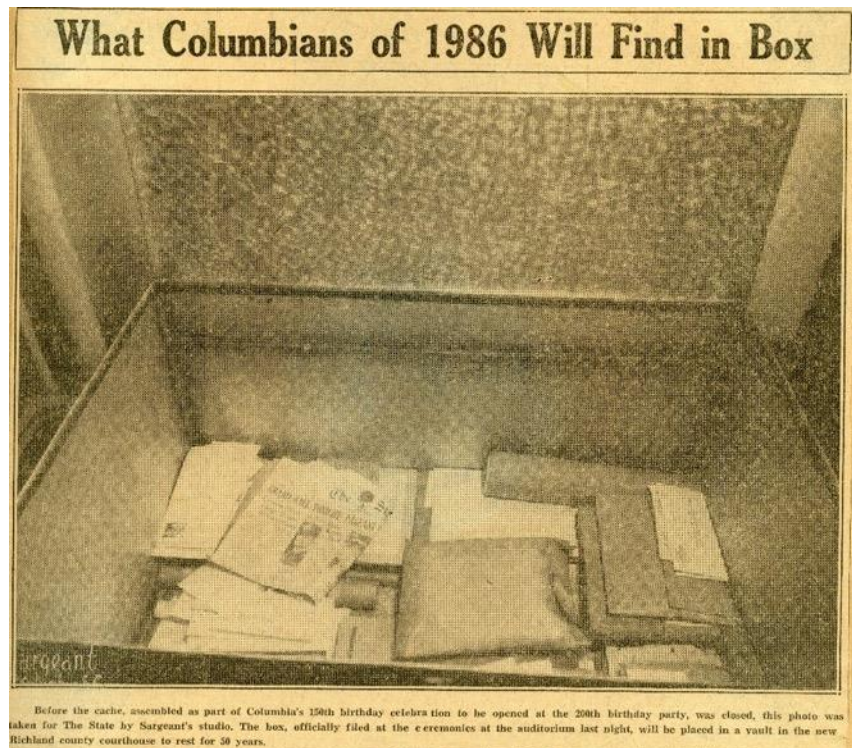


Figure B.2. *Cachet sealed by the Sesquicentennial Commission and stored at the courthouse addressed to Columbians of 1986.* Courtesy, McKissick Museum, University of South Carolina.

**(c) The Role of the Chamber of Commerce.** James Henry Hammond knew he needed the support of local merchants for funding and advertisement. He fueled the commercial interests of the Sesquicentennial

<sup>76</sup> Jane Kealhofer Simons and Margaret Babcock Meriwether, *A Guide to Columbia, South Carolina's Capital City* (Columbia, SC: The Columbia Sesquicentennial Commission, 1939).

<sup>77</sup> "Columbia Guide Book To Be Released To Public Today," *The State*, 13 July 1939.



Commission by announcing that records of the celebration and of all Columbia's business firms would be sealed in a time capsule stored in the courthouse, then under construction, to be opened only fifty years later during Columbia's bicentennial. The box measured 31x45x24 inches and the contents dating from 1936 included a copy of the city directory, newspapers, a legislative manual, a list of city and county employees, and a map of Columbia (see Figure B.2).<sup>78</sup>

The merchants pledged their fullest cooperation to the Sesquicentennial Commission, further indicating the commercial orientation of the commemoration. The Chamber of Commerce's president, C. S. Lemmon, was a member ex officio of the Sesquicentennial Commission. The chamber took charge, of the design and sale of commemorative seals, and stickers for mail and packages, to aid in publicizing the "Sesqui Fête." The Chamber of Commerce's assistant secretary, Robert Mobley, supervised the sale of 200,000 seals by January 1936.<sup>79</sup>

During the Reyner Cup celebration, an award annually granted to the city's merchants, James Henry Hammond announced the commission's plans, arguing that the date "would not be the anniversary of Columbia alone but of the Capital City of South Carolina."<sup>80</sup> He told the members of the Columbia Merchant's Association about the organization of a pageant, explained that wooden money and stickers would be produced, and even suggested that merchants and their employees attending the pageant wear clothing similar to styles of 1786.



Figure B.3. *Members of the Merchants' Association wearing clothes inspired by Columbia of 1786.* The use of historical clothing was suggested by James Henry Hammond, chair of the Sesquicentennial Commission. Courtesy, McKissick Museum, University of South Carolina.

The commission was deeply invested in displaying Columbia's aptitude for commerce since its origins and simultaneously projecting its entrepreneurship potentials for the future. In addition, Hammond announced that "leading men and women" were already writing chapters for the book commemorating Columbia's history. Interestingly, "Commerce and Manufacturing," written by Benjamin F. Taylor in thirty-four pages, is the lengthiest among the twenty-one chapters of the

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<sup>78</sup> "Cache Committee wants material," *The State*, 6 March 1936.

<sup>79</sup> "200,000 Sesqui Seals Are Sold," *Columbia Record* [Columbia, SC], 14 January 1936.

<sup>80</sup> "Merchants Hear Sesqui Chairman," *The State*, 31 December 1935.

book. Hennig wrote in *The State* in 1930 that “no city can be permanently successful unless it has a sound business foundation.”<sup>81</sup>

The commercial orientation of the celebration becomes even more evident in a pamphlet distributed to publicize the activities to be offered in the week of the Sesquicentennial Celebration. Possibly due to criticisms on the marketability of the celebration and the close connection between the commission and the Chamber of Commerce, the pamphlet explained:

[The celebration] is not a commercial venture, but an effort on the part of loyal Columbians and South Carolinians, who are proud of the history and heritages of their city and state, to memorialize the founding of the capital city.<sup>82</sup>

If the Commission relied excessively on commercial practices or if the merchants reaped extra profit from the celebration is unclear. Nonetheless, their link was strong and the material benefits for the city were uncontested. Sesquicentennial State Park is an example of an invaluable product that the celebration bequeathed as a result of the commission’s support by local commercial interests.

**(d) The Sesquicentennial Week.** The Sesquicentennial Commission planned a week of events was planned for the celebration. The central theme of advertising and publicity for the week was titled “Spirit of Columbia.” The illustration was a voluntary contribution from artist Haskell Coffin, whose model was Katherine Otis.

A historical pageant based on events of the past 150 years of Columbia was one of the most important events of



Figure B.4. Poster advertising the week of events celebrating the city's sesquicentennial. The woman portrayed was inspired by the Columbian Katherine Otis, and the illustration was a voluntary contribution of the artist Haskell Coffin. Courtesy, Walker Local and Family History Center at Richland Library, Digital Collections.

<sup>81</sup> "Columbia Guide Book To Be Released To Public Today," *The State*, 13 July 1939.

<sup>82</sup> "Will You Be With Us? The Sesquicentennial of the Founding of the Capital of South Carolina," The Walker Local and Family History Center, Digital Collections, Richland Library, Columbia, SC.



Figure B.5. *Event of the week of March 1936*. Many events took place in the capital city during the Celebration Week in March 1936, including pageants, historical re-enactments, horse shows, and concerts. Courtesy, McKissick Museum, University of South Carolina.

the week.<sup>83</sup> The *Spirit of Columbia* was a spectacle that portrayed the history of the capital city since its founding in eleven episodes and twenty-four scenes. Its first-run was performed Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1936—the official opening day of the celebration. The program started with George Washington’s historical visit to South Carolina followed by Lafayette’s entertainment. Next, it showed the purchase of the land on which the city sits and the legislative act that transferred the capital of the state from Charleston to Columbia. Several of the scenes were linked to wars that South Carolina was involved in, such as the

return of the Palmetto Regiment from the Mexican War, events that led to the “war between the states” and the war itself, the Secession Convention, the surrender and burning of Columbia, and the Reconstruction period. An eight-page pamphlet highlighted the presence of the Carpetbaggers, the Ku Klux Klan, and the Red Shirts. The last scenes were devoted to the “saviour [sic] of the state from the Carpetbag rule,” Wade Hampton, as well as the “Gay Nineties.” The *Spirit of Columbia* explicitly paid homage to the “heroes of all wars,” from the war of Independence to World War I.<sup>84</sup> The same eight-page pamphlet invited citizens to see in the capitol building, the “handsomest in the entire country,” the Confederate Relic Room, and the monument to the Women of the Confederacy, among others.

The premiere of the celebration on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> presented religious services, the inauguration of a monument to the South Carolina signers of the Constitution, and a sacred concert. A chorus of 1,000 voices, “white and Negro,” echoed from the Melton Field.<sup>85</sup> On the official opening on Monday, in addition to the *Spirit of Columbia*, the program included band concerts, the coronation of the Queen of the Sesquicentennial, parades, and performances.

For Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, the Commission planned the traditional pageant, a pet parade, Old-Time Volunteer Fire Department activities, and the Pioneer Honor Roll dinner. The pageant’s final presentation was on Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> in addition to band concerts, another round of Old-Time Volunteer Fire Department activities and races. The official closing happened on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, with band concerts, a horse show, the Sesquicentennial grand ball, and the depositing of Columbia’s records in the cachet for the Bicentennial.<sup>86</sup>

<sup>83</sup> The firm John B. Rogers Producing Company was responsible for the pageants, having Russell L. Rowland as pageant master and director-in-chief and French Sensabaugh as pageant director.

<sup>84</sup> “Will You Be With Us? The Sesquicentennial of the Founding of the Capital of South Carolina.”

<sup>85</sup> “Sesqui Facts and Figures,” *The State*, 18 March 1936.

<sup>86</sup> “Will You Be With Us? The Sesquicentennial of the Founding of the Capital of South Carolina.”



### 3. Gender

Women played an important role in the organization, celebration, and advertisement of the Sesquicentennial celebration. Beyond the aesthetic representations of women in posters and pageants, women such as Helen Kohn Hennig undertook leading positions in the commission and committees created for the celebration. Likewise, women made up the vast majority of a committee responsible for the creation of a proposed Sesquicentennial Museum. Jane Kealhofer Simons and Margaret Babcock Meriwether, also members of the Historical Committee, published an informative and tourist guide book to the city.

**(a) *Women of Columbia's Sesquicentennial Celebration.*** Included in the educational purposes of the celebration was the creation of the Sesquicentennial Museum housed in the University of South Carolina's then-main library, the present-day South Caroliniana Library. Save for three men, the museum committee chaired by Mrs. Virginia McMaster Foard was composed of women.

The choice for the location of the Sesquicentennial Museum is significant. South Caroliniana Library was designed by the nation's first federal architect, Robert Mills. Mills was a prominent South Carolina architect who designed the Washington Monument in Baltimore, Maryland and his notability was relevant to the national narrative that the Sesquicentennial Commission had in mind for Columbia's anniversary.<sup>87</sup>

Among the first steps for the creation of the exhibit, the museum committee promoted a contest for citizens who provided "Historic Data" to the museum. In particular, they sought objects and artifacts used prior to 1865 and rewarded donations with a prize in cash. Organized in smaller groups, such as the committee of acceptance, registration, china, miniatures and daguerreotypes, silver, needlework, and miscellaneous, women decided what would be deemed valuable enough to be a part of the collection.<sup>88</sup> The Sesquicentennial Museum was inaugurated on March 21, 1936, with doors opened by Virginia Hayne Taylor, "daughter of Albert Rhett Taylor and great-great-great-granddaughter of Thomas Taylor."<sup>89</sup> Virginia Taylor also participated on the celebration by erecting a granite tablet in the wall of Taylor burying ground, marking the origins of Columbia.<sup>90</sup>

Additionally, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) left their mark in the 150th anniversary of Columbia. Through their initiative and fundraising, they were able to donate the bronze plaque that commemorates the Constitution Signers. The memorial tablet was presented in the official opening of the Celebration Week, on the north steps of the State House among firing of salutes and

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<sup>87</sup> "History of the Horseshoe," University of South Carolina, accessed 18 April 2019, [https://www.sc.edu/about/our\\_history/horseshoe\\_history/index.php](https://www.sc.edu/about/our_history/horseshoe_history/index.php).

<sup>88</sup> For the names of the women of the Museum Committee, see Appendix D.

<sup>89</sup> "Approach of Sesqui Events Brings Entries in Contest," *Columbia Record*, 4 March 1936.

<sup>90</sup> The Taylor family was the owner of the area of present-day Columbia. See also "Columbia Guide Book To Be Released To Public Today," *The State*, 13 July 1939.

whistles on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.<sup>91</sup> DAR also cooperated for the park reforestation by planting longleaf pine seedlings in an area along the entrance driveway of the park.<sup>92</sup>



Mrs. Arthur St. Julian Simons presents Senator James H. Hammond, chairman of the Columbia Sesquicentennial committee, with the first copy of "A Guide to Columbia," which was issued with the sesqui funds, and which brings to a close the work of the Columbia Sesquicentennial commission, under whom the city in 1936 celebrated its 150th birthday. Mrs. R. L. Merriweather (left) and the commission edited the book which was written by Mrs. Simons. (Photo by Sargeant.)

Figure B.6. *Women writers of A Guide to Columbia.* From the left to right: Margaret Babcock Meriwether, Jane Kealhofer Simons, and James H. Hammond. Courtesy, *The State*, 13 July 1939.

In 1939, before ending its activities, the Sesquicentennial Commission published a guide for the city called *A Guide to Columbia, South Carolina's Capital City*. The guide listed the fifty new historical markers that the commission had patronized, including the texts displayed on each marker. As aforementioned, both the author and editor of the guide were women: Jane Kealhofer Simons was the writer, whereas Margaret Babcock Meriwether contributed as editor. This publication also signified efforts to promote tourism as a part of the commission's goals.

Women's organizations were extremely involved in the Sesquicentennial Celebration, and Sesquicentennial State Park was a

popular gathering place for women, as several newspapers articles announced after its opening. Members of the World Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and Girl Scout camps met at the park. Amenities at the park also catered to women as mothers brought their families and children to the park.<sup>93</sup>

**(b) Helen Kohn Hennig.** Helen Kohn Hennig was an important figure in Columbia as she was actively involved in intellectual life and community outreach. Together with her father, August Kohn, Henning held approximately 4,000 books, which was one of the greatest book collections in South Carolina.<sup>94</sup> Hennig also had a prolific intellectual production as the author of at least eight books.<sup>95</sup> The scholarly work she produced is telling of her ideological inclination that emphasized the history of South Carolina

<sup>91</sup> "D. A. R.'s of Columbia Share in Movement to Honor Constitution Signers," *Columbia Record*, 21 March 1936.

<sup>92</sup> "Lovely State Park Now Ready Just Outside Columbia," *The State*, 10 March 1940.

<sup>93</sup> For more information about women and Sesquicentennial State Park, see subsection 6 of C. Management of the South Carolina State Commission of Forestry, 1940 – 1967, and subsection 6 of E. Management of the South Carolina State Park Service, 1967 – present.

<sup>94</sup> For more information, see *The Kohn-Hennig Library: A Catalog* (Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2011).

<sup>95</sup> Hennig's publications are listed as follows: *William Harrison Scarborough: Portrait Painter and Miniaturist*, 1934; *Francis Salvador*, 1935; *Great South Carolinians*, 1940; *Mayors of Columbia, S.C., 1806-1941*, 1941; *Great South Carolinians of a Later Date*, 1949; *Great South Carolinians: From Colonial Days to the Confederate War*, 1970; *Great South Carolinians*, 1970; *Research Notes on Edwin DeLeon (1828-1891)*, 1976.

and its “heroes,” as similarly seen in the Sesquicentennial Celebration. The scope of her work encompasses several books on “great South Carolinians,” political figures, and Jewish history.

Hennig’s ideological standings influenced public life in Columbia. She was actively involved in community service in Columbia and through her synagogue, Tree of Life Temple. The celebratory book she wrote, as well as the historical markers placed by the Sesquicentennial Commission, reflect Hennig’s influence because they are inclusive of Jewish history in Columbia.<sup>96</sup> As a member of the City Planning Commission, Hennig advocated for the beautification of Columbia and sought to establish Sesquicentennial State Park as a part of that beautification vision. Throughout this process, Hennig’s influence was strengthened by her connection with James Henry Hammond. He wrote to her periodically, including on her birthday, saying, “Columbia has certainly worked you a lot and you have always been so cooperative.”<sup>97</sup> The two would continue their friendship into their careers, with Hammond participating in events honoring Hennig’s public service and remembering the Sesquicentennial celebration.<sup>98</sup>

#### 4. James Henry Hammond and a Vision Behind the Park

James Henry Hammond was instrumental in the Sesquicentennial Celebration and the creation of Sesquicentennial State Park through his role as the chairman of the Sesquicentennial Commission and his intensive knowledge about local politics. Within planning the celebration and creating the park was a complicated vision centered in southern exceptionalism, Civil War redemption, and a desire to place the history of South Carolina into a national narrative.<sup>99</sup>

**(a) James Henry Hammond.** James Henry Hammond (1885-1970) was the grandson of James Henry Hammond (1807-1864), a prominent South Carolina governor, wealthy slaveholder, and pro-slavery ideologue. James Henry Hammond was a popular lawyer and politician in Columbia after graduating from the Citadel and University of South Carolina School of Law.<sup>100</sup> He served in the South Carolina House of Representatives from 1915 to 1919 and as state senator for Richland Country from 1927 to 1934.

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<sup>96</sup> Hennig, ed., *Columbia: Capital City of South Carolina 1786 - 1936*.

<sup>97</sup> James Henry Hammond to Helen Hennig, November 1952, James Henry Hammond Papers, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

<sup>98</sup> James Henry Hammond to Helen Kohn Hennig, 1954, James Henry Hammond Papers. Hammond refers to the Sesquicentennial Celebration and Hennig’s continued service saying, “I am always interested in everything you do because you do it just right.”

<sup>99</sup> Interpreting ideologies of southern exceptionalism encompasses a breadth of scholarship housed in Southern History and Southern Studies. This lens points to scholars, politicians, and authors pointing to the South as a unique region, but often ignores class, racial, and gendered inequalities and tensions. It often is inserted as a form of southern nationalism, even if intellectually integrated into a national framework. An example of recent scholarship is: James M. McPherson, “Antebellum Southern Exceptionalism: A New Look at an Old Question,” *Civil War History* 50, no. 4 (2004): 418-433.

<sup>100</sup> James Henry Hammond Papers, South Carolinana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC. The James Henry Hammond Papers are unprocessed, but offered many sources connecting him to local decisions about Sesquicentennial State Parks through the 1950s.

Hammond held a professional vision for the Sesquicentennial Celebration to be an all-encompassing commemoration of not only Columbia, but of South Carolina and its historical role on the national stage. This is evident through Hammond's personal circulation of materials from the Sesquicentennial throughout the country including the book, *Columbia Capital City of South Carolina 1786 – 1936* and commemorative coins to senators.<sup>101</sup> James Henry Hammond tasked himself personally to handle even the smallest details of the celebration, including details of floral arrangements and fireworks displays in contracts from a company based out of Ohio, and even contacting Hollywood for assistance in selecting a winner of the beauty pageant.<sup>102</sup> To Hammond, Columbia's Sesquicentennial was an event deserving national recognition and demonstrative of southern exceptionalism. He saw the celebration as multifaceted, writing

It is the hope of Columbia that here ultimately may be located the fountain heads of Education, Theology, Music, Arts, and Sciences. We wish to be the vehicle of progress for South Carolina from a cultural standpoint as well as a material.<sup>103</sup>

Hammond wanted to present the history of South Carolina as a cultural experience worthy of national attention in the past and into the present. As the celebration was widely noted as a success throughout the South, other cities' respective officials wrote to Hammond for suggestions. North Carolina's Sesquicentennial committee based in Raleigh wrote to Hammond. Their commissioner, Clarence Poe, asked for advice and expressed interest in how they used the event to fundraise. Hammond's response is very indicative of his professional, profitable vision:

I believe you pay for what you get, and pay for, expert help. This is going to be your first local problem You will find lots of people who will say that you have a group who can do this work without expert help and decry the cost and expense of trained men to help you. The best money you spend is to procure the most component help available.... One of the first rules to adopt is that nobody, including yourself, except news men, is to get anything free.<sup>104</sup>

Hammond wanted the Sesquicentennial event to be beyond a local or state-wide celebration. He wanted it to serve as a conduit for advancing tourism to Columbia. He aimed for Columbia to stand as a city that demonstrated the strength of the South.

Hammond also saw the Sesquicentennial as an important moment for memory in the state. He saw the template for the celebration as something to be replicated in the future. He aimed to cultivate a historical memory that would demonstrate South Carolina as being triumphant, redeemed from the city's destruction in the Civil War, and an important part of the nation's history. In 1936 Hammond wrote a letter to the future chairmen of the Bi-Centennial Celebration in 1986—fifty years in the future—assuming they would have a similar celebration. He lauded the Sesquicentennial celebration and revealed his hopes for the future: "I am sure you will find much interest in your position. The work

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<sup>101</sup> James Henry Hammond to H.P. Fulmer, 1936, James Henry Hammond Papers.

<sup>102</sup> James Henry Hammond to Mr. Winfield Sheehan Fox Studios, 1935, James Henry Hammond Papers.

<sup>103</sup> James Henry Hammond to the Chairman of the Bi-Centennial Celebration of 1986, 1936, James Henry Hammond Papers.

<sup>104</sup> James Henry Hammond to Clarence Poe, 1941, James Henry Hammond Papers.

that necessarily must be done is so great that you will have to practically give up your private affairs, as I have done, for two or three months.”<sup>105</sup> He also detailed how positively he felt the event was nationally perceived: “The members of the Commission have worked faithfully and continually and from the present out-look not only Columbia, but the entire country is well pleased.”<sup>106</sup> This letter is not only revealing of the time Hammond devoted to the celebration, but how the celebration of Columbia fit within a national narrative.

Hammond wanted to celebrate South Carolina through the vision of a professional Sesquicentennial celebration to advance a positive national image of South Carolina. He was also deeply concerned in sharing with the state and the nation a history of Columbia built around white-identity and southern exceptionalism out of the Civil War. Through his attention to details and high level of involvement, his influence is inextricable from the Sesquicentennial Celebration.

**(b) *The Columbia Capital City of South Carolina: 1786 – 1936 and Race.*** *Columbia: Capital City of South Carolina: 1786-1936*, created through the Sesquicentennial Commission, demonstrates the intentions of the Historical Committee. The book celebrated the history of South Carolina and interpreted this history through a white supremacist lens. When treated as a primary source, the book acts as a physical manifestation of the commission’s interpretive goals.

The book was written to celebrate Columbia’s accomplishments in the previous 150 years, but also to educate the public about that history. The chapters were organized thematically and cited different authors for each section. “Confederacy and Reconstruction,” “Famous Visitors,” “Outdoor Sports,” and “Negros” are examples of the book’s contents and reveal the objectives of the Sesquicentennial Commission’s commemoration of Columbia. Although the book offered a large range of topics, it offers an important view of race. Author C.A. Johnson, supervising principal of African American schools, wrote the section titled “Negros.” He introduced the section by saying that “There were many honest, hardworking, law-abiding negroes whose contributions and services were never recorded.”<sup>107</sup> This section outlined the racial perceptions held by the Sesquicentennial Commission and is one of the shortest sections of the book. It makes little mention of enslavement or its oppressive conditions and serves as one of the only mentions of African Americans and slavery within the entire celebration. Not only was an exclusive white history of Columbia constructed through this text and other initiatives by the Sesquicentennial Commission’s Historical Committee, but a history teeming with

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<sup>105</sup> James Henry Hammond to the Chairman of the Bi-Centennial Celebration of 1886, 1936, James Henry Hammond Papers.

<sup>106</sup> James Henry Hammond to the Chairman of the Bi-Centennial Celebration of 1886, James Henry Hammond Papers.

<sup>107</sup> Helen Kohn Hennig and Charles E. Lee, eds., *Columbia, Capital City of South Carolina, 1786-1936. With a Mid-Century Supplement, 1936-1966* (Columbia, SC: Columbia Sesqui-centennial commission, 1966), 303. This edition was republished in 1966 and included a midcentury supplement offering reflections on how Columbia had continued to grow since the celebration. The book is also telling in how the ideological efforts of the Sesquicentennial were still celebrated and streamlined into the white-identity of Southerners in 1966, thirty years later.

explicitly white supremacist ideologies was also constructed. In this sense, the creation of a whites-only park as a part of the celebration was never questioned by any facet of the Sesquicentennial Commission.

*Columbia: Capital City of South Carolina 1786-1936* also played an important role in creating revenue for the Sesquicentennial Commission, as it was purchased and gifted to libraries to various libraries. The book was distributed through public schools and universities in South Carolina as a means to educate students about their state through the eyes of the capital city. This book was created to be supplemented by future generations, with the 1966 edition being published as the *mid-century supplement 1936-1966*.<sup>108</sup> However, the book's outreach was beyond that of South Carolina, or even the South: throughout the country, the book was held by libraries such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forestry Service in Madison, Wisconsin and Wellesley College in Wellesley, Massachusetts.<sup>109</sup> Not only was this history of Columbia serving South Carolinians as a means to consume and create a self-serving identity, but it was being distributed and well received by national counterparts as a means to understand the history of Columbia, South Carolina, and the South as a whole.

**(c) Historical Markers and Southern Ideological Trends.** As a part of the Sesquicentennial Celebration, the Civilian Conservation Corps erected fifty historical markers around the city of Columbia in 1938 for the Sesquicentennial Commission.

As southern cities reached their Sesquicentennial celebrations in this time period there were tensions and questions about national identity in light of southern secession and their role in the Civil War. In this sense, the Sesquicentennial Celebration served as a means for white southerners to cement national and state identities that were racially exclusive. These local identities were celebratory of the plantation lifestyles of the past and mourned the physical impacts of the Civil War at the hands of the Union Army, such as Sherman's March. Efforts in asserting the South's important role in a national identity placed extreme emphasis on the role of Southerners in politics and in the role of Southerners in the success of the Revolutionary War. These ideologies were shared through media such as newspapers throughout Southern cities, such as Atlanta.<sup>110</sup> These ideological efforts in Columbia were celebrated and admired throughout the South as evidence of Southern exceptionalism. In performances, as seen in Columbia's Sesquicentennial Celebration, Southerners wanted to celebrate a history that redeemed South Carolina after the Civil War, but they also wanted to mourn and remember a South they believed was lost in that war. Through this catharsis and public involvement in the celebration, white Southerners

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<sup>108</sup> Henning and Lee, eds., *Columbia Capital City of South Carolina 1786-1936 with A Mid-Century Supplement 1936-1966*.

<sup>109</sup> Call card for U.S. Department of Agriculture Library, James Henry Hammond Papers; Associate librarian at Wellesley College to James Henry Hammond, 1937, James Henry Hammond Papers.

<sup>110</sup> W. W. Brewton, "The South and the Constitution," *The Atlanta Constitution* [Atlanta, GA], 28 November 1937.

were assured of their own identities, created historical affirmation of the South's place in the nation, and reinforced a racialized social hierarchy.<sup>111</sup>

**(d) *The Creation of Sesquicentennial State Park and Interpretative Goals.*** After a profitable celebration, the creation of Sesquicentennial State Park served as an afterthought to the larger historical messages presented in the week of celebrations. Within this physical construction of a white historical identity in Columbia through books and historical markers, the opening of the whites-only Sesquicentennial State Park only furthered these objectives. The Board of Directors of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce worked alongside the South Carolina Commission of Forestry to create a state park for white residents of Columbia.<sup>112</sup> Given James Henry Hammond's role in the Sesquicentennial Commission, he was involved in selecting land as well.<sup>113</sup>

The Sesquicentennial Commission ended its activities only in September 22, 1939 with a banquet held at Sesquicentennial State Park—the lasting piece of the celebration. The commission's efforts were physically manifested into a park that continues to be used by the people of Columbia. The commission's objectives to integrate national history into the city colored future historical interpretations of Sesquicentennial State Park. James Henry Hammond's role in the commission reinforced these goals using the professionalized celebration to demonstrate southern exceptionalism, perpetuate a redemptive history of Columbia after the Civil War, and incorporate South Carolina's history into a national narrative.

## **5. The Building of the Park and the CCC**

After assuming the presidency in 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt wasted no time in combating the economic devastation and emotional suffering of the Great Depression. One of the most significant programs that he initiated to alleviate rampant unemployment among the country's young men was the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), which was officially created on April 5, 1933 through an executive order. The major goals of the CCC included relief of unemployment, the restoration of depleted natural resources throughout the country, and the development of an organized, large-scale public works enterprise.<sup>114</sup>

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<sup>111</sup> Performance studies is an academic discipline that employs history, literature, anthropology, psychology, sociology, drama, and communication studies. In a historical context, research regarding the role of performance is found in scholars influenced by American Studies, often researching a local history. Although the methodologies of the discipline are debated, it is a helpful interdisciplinary method to understand the rationale of human behavior as individuals perform through celebrations. In this context, how these celebrations build identity and attempt to create a white, streamlined historical narrative about the city of Columbia. For further scholarship on how this discipline can be used see Richard Schechner, "Foreword: Fundamentals of Performance Studies," in Nathan Stucky and Cynthia Wimmer, eds., *Teaching Performance Studies* (Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 2002).

<sup>112</sup> James Henry Hammond to Bishop Finlay, 19 July 1936, James Henry Hammond Papers.

<sup>113</sup> Hammond communicated regularly with state forester H.A. Smith in selecting the land for the park, as further detailed in subsection 6.

<sup>114</sup> "Executive Order No. 6101," Reference File 1933–1942, Records of the Civilian Conservation Corps, Record Group 35, National Archives, Washington, DC.

The program was specifically geared toward engaging single men between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five from urban areas in reforestation projects on federally owned land.

Government officials in South Carolina were therefore concerned that their predominantly rural state would be disadvantaged while competing for federal relief. As a result, a group representing various facets of the state, including ranking members of the Commission of Forestry and collegiate professionals, met with Governor Ibra C. Blackwood and resolved to travel to Washington, DC in order to fight on behalf of South Carolina. Meanwhile, business groups and chambers of commerce lobbied the state congressional delegation for additional changes and broadened opportunities. As a result, the CCC was expanded to include rural areas and to encompass state forests, while “general recreation in all its phases” fell under the domain of the Commission of Forestry.<sup>115</sup>

By May of 1933, through the efforts and collaborative work of several different government agencies, primarily the National Park Service and the United States Forest Service, CCC camps had been established and organized in South Carolina with the intent of building park facilities. These various camps were tasked with protecting valuable forests from fire and pestilence, converting substandard farmland into productive and beneficial forests, and creating inexpensive outdoor recreational sites for the enjoyment and pleasure. The state parks that were developed by the CCC in South Carolina throughout the 1930s and early 1940s were created as a result of a variety of public and private enthusiasm, cooperation, and initiative.<sup>116</sup> Sesquicentennial State Park owes its existence in particular to the city of Columbia and the Sesquicentennial Celebration of its 150th anniversary in 1936. Left with a surplus of money, the Sesquicentennial Commission decided in to forever memorialize the anniversary with the purchase of 1,445 acres of land in 1937. This site, which is located in the Sand Hills region north of the city, was conveyed to the Commission of Forestry and the CCC moved into the area to begin developing the park shortly thereafter.<sup>117</sup>

CCC Company #4469 was assigned to Sesquicentennial State Park and thus became responsible for its development. The company campsite was located a few miles east of the park called P-71, but it was often referred to as Camp Pontiac after the community in which it was situated. The men who comprised this company were all white, and in fact, they participated in the only major instance of racial hostilities involving the CCC in South Carolina. Company #4469 and black soldiers stationed at Fort Jackson both used a nearby lake for recreation, and on April 21, 1940, after a white CCC man “ducked,” or temporarily submerged, a black man’s head underwater. A violent encounter ensued that involved

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<sup>115</sup> Minutes of the Meetings of the Forestry Commission for April 4 and June 27, 1933, Book #2, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia; State of South Carolina, Report of the State Commission of Forestry for July 1, 1932 to June 30, 1933 (Columbia, SC: General Assembly of South Carolina, 1933):18-19, 28-29; Robert A. Waller, “The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Emergence of South Carolina’s State Park System, 1933-1942” *The South Carolina Historical Magazine*, 104, no. 2 (April, 2003): 102.

<sup>116</sup> For additional information on the CCC and the development of state parks in South Carolina, reference Tara Mitchell Mielnik’s book, *New Deal, New Landscape: The Civilian Conservation Corps and South Carolina State Parks*.

<sup>117</sup> Waller, “The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Emergence of South Carolina’s State Park System, 1933-1942”: 106-107.



rock throwing, fist fighting, attacking with sticks, and verbal abuse. This incident further exemplifies the racial tension that tainted the creation of a segregated park.<sup>118</sup>

The company had been actively engaged in numerous projects prior to beginning work at Sesquicentennial State Park, such as surveying land, planting trees, and helping to curb forest fires through the construction of lookout towers, but by early in 1938 they had already made substantial progress at the park. The company's work was diverse and included "road and dam construction, stone and brick masonry, carpentry, surveying tree culture, landscaping, and road work." Not only was the advancement of the park progressing smoothly, but the men genuinely enjoyed working at the park, as "no other project at the camp offers the opportunity to learn as many different [skills] as the development of the Sesqui-Centennial-Park." The work was "most interesting," but the men were also motivated by the thought of transforming this site into "a place of beauty where children and their elders may spend a day of recreation and learn to love and appreciate nature's marvels." Such sentiments were expressed in *The Indian Speaks*, the weekly newspaper published in the camp. The newspaper predicted that the "many thousand-man days of labor" required to create the park would ultimately produce "a monument that will stand forever, a heritage to our children and our children's children." The men who worked on the park could thus take great pride in observing the daily progress, which was "like watching a butterfly [emerge] from the chrysalis" and would surely become one of the nation's "most valued assets."<sup>119</sup>

Just a few months later, construction of the dam had become the main activity at the park, and



Figure B.7. View of the bathhouse, 1940. The bathhouse is not only a lasting physical example of the CCC's innovative use of concrete, but also a symbolic representation of racial tension because it helped create a segregated park that excluded black visitors from enjoying the beachfront and water. Courtesy, South Carolina State Commission of Forestry.

by July all that remained were a few final touches. According to *The Indian Speaks*, "the gates has [sic] been closed for quite a while and the water is now running over the spill-way," which gave the entire area "a different look" and created "a very good appearance." Additional projects, notably the bathhouse and picnic shelters, were on schedule to be commenced next. The men continued to believe that once completed, Sesquicentennial State Park would be "one of the nicest

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<sup>118</sup> For additional information on the incident between white CCC workers and black soldiers, see chapter 18 in Robert A. Waller's book, *Relief, Recreation, Racism: Civilian Conservation Corps Creates South Carolina State Parks, 1933–1942* (Xlibris: 2017).

<sup>119</sup> "Forestry Facts: Sesqui-Centennial-Park," *The Indian Speaks*, February 28, 1938, Civilian Conservation Corps Company 4469, Civilian Conservation Corps Papers, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

places in this part of the state.”<sup>120</sup> The construction of such buildings and structures at the park continued into 1940 and was particularly unique, as almost all of them were made using concrete. Although concrete was considered a “radical type of material” at the time, it was deemed to be the most suitable, practical, and durable building material available given the abundance of sand in the area. Great protest on the use of concrete was raised, primarily in light of concern that features such as fireplaces, picnic tables, and benches would look like “tombstones in a cemetery,” and buildings would appear as “mausoleums.” Yet, despite the apparent skepticism, the endeavor to use concrete proceeded because it was considered “a novel experiment” with the “advantage of low maintenance cost.” The potentially risky experiment with concrete construction proved to be a great success. Those who had previously expressed concern about its aesthetics were “pleasantly surprised with the appearance” of the concrete structures, and the State Forester reportedly said that “the maintenance at Sesqui-Centennial State Park was considerably less than at any other one.”<sup>121</sup>

As the prospects of American entry in World War II grew imminent and the country began to prepare for war, funding for CCC programs diminished and jobs became more scarce as a result. By 1941, CCC companies and camps were dissolving and closing permanently, and those few that remained were primarily converted into military training sites. A memorandum from the National Park Service circulated to the State Forester’s Office on November 28, 1941 exemplifies the disheartening predicament. It referred to both the recent and pending reductions to the CCC program as “disturbing,” and that the situation had left many “keenly disappointed” since the reductions had forced the abandonment of projects only partially completed. Despite the need to shut down the CCC in order to support “our all-out defense effort,” the public, which was “favorably disposed toward it,” and officials at levels of state and national government who were “convinced of its value,” remained hopeful that the CCC or another program like it would once again serve the nation.<sup>122</sup>

The CCC made significant and lasting contributions at the local, state, and national levels. Locally, Camp Pontiac was responsible for the creation of a park that has stood the test of time. At the state level, when the work of the CCC officially ended in 1942, seventeen state parks had been created in South Carolina. The parks totaled 34,788 acres, all of which had been developed since the inauguration of the program in 1933.<sup>123</sup> In the process, 49,000 young men had gained employment and over \$57 million had been invested in the state’s economy through wages and the purchase of land, supplies, equipment, and service.<sup>124</sup> In a national context, the CCC provided young men with practical

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<sup>120</sup> “Sesqui-Centennial Park,” *The Indian Speaks*, 16 July 1938.

<sup>121</sup> R. A. Conard, “Our Sesqui-Centennial State Park: Some Sidelights on Its Development,” 14 August 1954, South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, Columbia.

<sup>122</sup> “Memorandum for Park Authorities,” United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Washington to State Foresters Office, Columbia, SC, 28 November 1941, Received January 24, 1942, Series 162004 Civilian Conservation Corps Files 1934 – 1942, State Commission of Forestry Records, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia.

<sup>123</sup> Waller, “The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Emergence of South Carolina’s State Park System, 1933-1942”: 102; For a more extensive overview that includes pictures, see “From the Mountains to the Sea” in South Carolina State Planning Board, *Parks and Recreational Areas of South Carolina*, Bulletin no. 7 (Columbia, SC: State Council of Defense, 1941).

<sup>124</sup> “Final Report on CCC in South Carolina, April 1933–June 30, 1942,” Pictographs, 1933–1942, Division of Planning and Public Relations, Records of the Civilian Conservation Corps, Record Group 35, National Archives,

skills, experience working as a group, and self-confidence during the Great Depression, which would ultimately prove to be crucial to American participation in World War II.

## 6. Visitor Facilities and Programming

When construction at Sesquicentennial State Park began in 1937, original plans included facilities such as an amphitheater and a steeplechase course.<sup>125</sup> Although not all of these plans came to fruition, the CCC aimed to create facilities for future programming opportunities for the public to enjoy the park.

By August 1938, CCC workers had started building the dam and lake on Jackson's Creek. The original plans included a one-thousand-foot dike, and a picnic and barbeque area for recreational use would be situated near the dam. During the planning process, H.A. Smith, State Forester, requested that the dam be lowered by one foot as to not obstruct the view of the lake.<sup>126</sup>

In 1938, the CCC also constructed the bath house at an estimated cost of \$10,000, using concrete and stucco and including modern electric wiring.<sup>127</sup> It is one of the most significant structures from the CCC era in both the construction technique and its popularity in the first few decades of the park's existence. After much discussion between the landscape engineer and the regional forester, they agreed upon concrete as the main material for the bathhouse and the other CCC structures as a cost saving mechanism. While other parks in South Carolina used pine and cypress trees to build their structures, Sesquicentennial State Park is unique in that the structures are concrete and the sand for the concrete was locally sourced. When the bathhouse was nearing completion, R.A. Conard, State Director of CCC camps, met with the regional director from Atlanta where he learned that the budget for materials for each structure was only \$2,500. He claimed the bathhouse was in fact three structures that happened to be connected by a roof: a woman's washroom, a men's washroom, and a concession stand. That logic allowed him to fully fund the materials that he estimated would cost between \$4,500 and \$5,000.<sup>128</sup> The CCC also built two concrete picnic shelters in 1938, located by present day Jackson's Creek. One features a fireplace, and both use untraditional CCC materials like tile.<sup>129</sup> The latrine also included untraditional tile along with plumbing and electrical wiring at a cost of \$700.<sup>130</sup>

Pressure from the public encouraged the early opening of the brand-new Sesquicentennial State Park. On July 14, 1940, the State Commission of Forestry published an article in *The State* "cordially

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Washington, DC; "The Civilian Conservation Corps in South Carolina," (South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1997).

<sup>125</sup> "Plan Steeplechase Course in Sesquicentennial Park; Polo Field Work Inspected," *The State*, 20 November 1936.

<sup>126</sup> H.A. Smith to the Regional Forester, 19 August 1938, National Archives, Atlanta, Georgia.

<sup>127</sup> CCC Building Contract, 1938, CCC Construction Files, Resource Management Offices, South Carolina State Park Service.

<sup>128</sup> R. A. Conard, "Our Sesqui-Centennial State Park: Some Sidelights on its Development" *The State Magazine*, 14 August 1954.

<sup>129</sup> CCC Building Contract, 1938, CCC Construction Files, Resource Management Offices, South Carolina State Park Service.

<sup>130</sup> CCC Building Contract, 1938, CCC Construction Files, Resource Management Offices, South Carolina State Park Service.

invit[ing]" visitors to the new park although it was only "25 per-cent" completed. The open facility amenities included the picnic and cooking facilities, the lake with a diving tower, the beach, and the bathhouse with a fee of ten cents for children and fifteen cents for adults. The bathhouse also included a refreshment stand with "cold drinks, ice cream...and cigarets [sic]". Boat rental was also available for twenty-five cents for the first hour and fifteen cents for each additional hour. The article lists Couch H. B. Rhame as the summer park director and C.F. Tisdale as head lifeguard with a staff of three aquatic instructors supplied by the WPA.<sup>131</sup>

Sesquicentennial State Park became a very popular park as soon as it opened. Its first weekend of operation with its full summer staff saw over 5,000 visitors.<sup>132</sup> James H. Hammond stated that the park looked like "Coney Island" with how many people he saw at the park in late July 1940.<sup>133</sup> By December of that year, Hammond was already campaigning for an additional lake to alleviate the crowding.<sup>134</sup> He would continue advocating for more land in Sesquicentennial State Park for over a decade. This popularity along with the "removal of other areas from public use" resulted in the granting of funds for beach improvement, boat docks, a children's playground, additional fireplaces, drinking fountains, a latrine, a picnic shelter, a barbeque pit, a playfield, and lifeguard quarters in early 1941.<sup>135</sup>

With World War II looming, the federal government had to pull CCC workers from their projects to prepare to serve the country in national defense focused ways.<sup>136</sup> This caused construction at Sesquicentennial to halt. Notably, an amphitheater, predicted to take 1,500 men days to create, was put on hold until workers could return. It would not be built for more than twenty years.<sup>137</sup>

## 7. Forest Management

The South Carolina Commission of Forestry was actively involved in the establishment of Sesquicentennial State Park through land acquisition, construction, conservation efforts, and programming. The Commission of Forestry was established as an agency in 1927. Prior to its creation, there was a growing concern regarding the rapidly disappearing timber supply throughout the state, the result of activities such as turpentine extraction, logging, and lumbering. Thus, the State General Assembly passed a law that created the commission, which was initially tasked with protecting forests, promoting the benefits of good forest management, and monitoring the conditions of forests throughout the state.<sup>138</sup> In 1933, after the formation of the federal Civilian Conservations Corps

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<sup>131</sup> "New Sesquicentennial State Park Welcomes Visitors," *The State*, 14 July 1940.

<sup>132</sup> "State Parks Draw Many in First Week," *The State*, 16 June 1940.

<sup>133</sup> James H. Hammond to H.A. Smith, 3 August 1940.

<sup>134</sup> H.A. Smith to James H. Hammond, 2 December 1940.

<sup>135</sup> H.A. Smith to B.S. Meeks, 12 February 1941.

<sup>136</sup> Thomas J. Allen to H.A. Smith, 27 October 1941.

<sup>137</sup> "South Carolina Commission of Forestry Cooperating with the State Forest Service, Plan No. SC-3F Pony 3-1," 1941, Resource Management Offices, South Carolina State Park Service.

<sup>138</sup> "History of the Forestry Commission," The South Carolina Forestry Commission, accessed 22 March 2019.

program, the state legislature further broadened the Commission of Forestry's responsibilities to include developing and operating state parks through a joint effort.

At Sesquicentennial State Park, State Forester H. A. Smith was largely responsible for carrying out these objectives during the early years of the park's history. He was in regular communication with James Henry Hammond, and one topic that they spoke extensively about was the selection of land for the park. They considered many properties, and some of the possibilities came from individuals like F.D. Kendall, who directly petitioned Hammond requesting that the commission buy his land for the purposes of creating the park. Many of the petitions argued their case due to water sources on the land that could potentially be used for power: however, Hammond insisted that "The idea is not for Power. Distance is the ideal. What they wish is a place, about one thousand acres, on streams, with folks, that lends itself to multiple ponds so that a landscaping program can start out."<sup>139</sup> Land that was considered included the Messer Mill tract, the Tom Q. McGee tract, and the J.C. Robinson tract. Ultimately they selected the Dent tract, of which H.A. Smith wrote: "From this review I am very much convinced that the only tract worth of consideration by the State Commission of Forestry is the Dent tract....The total land area is 2397 acres."<sup>140</sup> In terms of natural resources, they were especially pleased that the land had "1547 acres of young longleaf pine."<sup>141</sup> Although there was substantial debate between Hammond and Smith in the selection the land because Hammond preferred the Messer Mill Tract, perhaps due to Kendall's personal appeals, ultimately they chose the Dent tract due to its location and resources.<sup>142</sup>

The Commission of Forestry, working in conjunction with the Civilian Conservation Corps at Sesquicentennial State Park, strove to promote conservation efforts and preservation programs which included beautification and planting trees. The Commission of Forestry funded a beautification project by which private landowners applied to have CCC workers plant trees on their properties in the areas around parks, such as Sesquicentennial. The program was meant to "afford CCC enrollees experience in tree planting" and to "engage idle lands in growing trees...in locations where their growth can be watched by the public."<sup>143</sup> Camp P-71 specifically worked in reforestation efforts at Sesquicentennial State Park through Project #206, which continued into 1941.<sup>144</sup> This was part of a larger reforestation and soil conservation program initiated in 1939 by the Committee on Agriculture, which was well-received by the public. For instance, in 1940 it inspired a project in which all the Columbia-based Kiwanis Groups traveled to Sesquicentennial State Park to help plant trees, which were often slash pine.<sup>145</sup> This is especially significant because unlike the longleaf pine that is indigenous at the park, the slash pine that was introduced was non-native. At the 1941 planting season's peak, the orders for slash pine, long

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<sup>139</sup> James Henry Hammond to F.D. Kendall, 22 August 1936.

<sup>140</sup> H.A. Smith to James Henry Hammond, 18 January 1937.

<sup>141</sup> H.A. Smith to James Henry Hammond, 18 January 1937.

<sup>142</sup> James Henry Hammond to H.A. Smith, 19 February 1937.

<sup>143</sup> "Agreement with State Forestry Commission and CCC."

<sup>144</sup> H.A. Smith to Regional Forester, 1 February 1941, 52A004, Box 6, Civilian Conservation Corps 1935-1942, National Archives, Atlanta, Georgia.

<sup>145</sup> "Columbia's Service Clubs", *The State*, 26 February 1940.

leaf pine, loblolly pine, and short leaf pine trees intended for soil conservation and reforestation efforts exceeded two million trees per week.<sup>146</sup> By the end of the year, the number reached 15 million trees.<sup>147</sup>

Environmental efforts to plant trees in forests that had been used for extractive industries, such as logging and turpentine extraction, coincided with the Sesquicentennial Commission's goal of beautifying the natural area around Columbia. As the city continued to grow as a metropolitan center, the public increasingly voiced a desire for access to natural resources that were both aesthetically pleasing and in line with conservation trends. Forestry management at Sesquicentennial State Park not only created an escape from the city where people could enjoy nature, but it also promoted what was deemed to be beneficial environmental initiatives.

## 8. Fire Management

During the first years of the park, the Commission of Forestry also focused on fire management. There was mounting fear of dangerous and destructive fires that posed a great threat to forests throughout the state. Members of the CCC played an integral role in carrying out the groundwork that allowed the Commission of Forestry to begin better supervising, controlling, and ultimately preventing rampant forest fires. This included the construction of fire towers that would help spot fires quickly from afar, as well as dispatching men who would combat fires at the source. Once Company #4469 began work at Sesquicentennial State Park, a lookout tower for spotting forest fires was among the many structures that the men were tasked with erecting.

The steel lookout tower was originally built at Camp Jackson, however, it was removed and reconstructed at Sesquicentennial State Park in 1940. It needed to be relocated after the Sixth Division of the Regular Army moved into the camp and the tower, along with the towerman's residence, fell in the line of artillery fire. Thus, in order

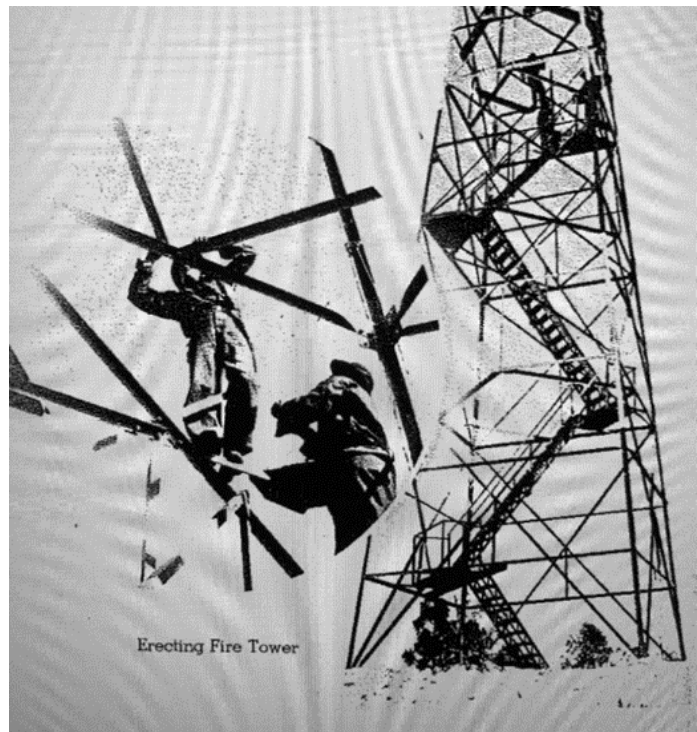


Figure B.8. CCC Men Erect Fire Tower, 1939 – 1940. Company #4469 was responsible for disassembling the old lookout tower at Camp Jackson and rebuilding it at Sesquicentennial State Park, where it not only attracted the attention of visitors but more importantly played a crucial role in fire management. Courtesy, South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism.

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<sup>146</sup> "Planting Season Nearing its Peak", *The State*, 14 January 1941.

<sup>147</sup> "15,000,000 Trees Being Planted SC," *The State*, 14 March 1941.

to remove these structures from the danger of shellfire, as well as to allow the towerman to “devote his thought to woods fires, without interruption,” it was deemed necessary that they be relocated.

The Commission of Forestry enlisted the aid of CCC Camp #4469 to move and reconstruct the lookout tower at Sesquicentennial State Park near the entrance. When the South Carolina National Guard occupied Camp Jackson, the lookout tower was painted a “gaudy” orange and black so that it could be visible to aircrafts flying overhead. The local press predicted it would be seen and visited by many visitors, and although it did function as an attraction, it was most importantly used for fire prevention until the late 1990s.<sup>148</sup>

At Sesquicentennial, the lookout tower situated on top of ancient sand dunes approximately 450 feet in elevation, which thus offers an expansive view from above to spot fires. The tower was staffed by a keeper, who was tasked with surveying the land from his elevated perch.<sup>149</sup> Company #4469 was responsible for building several similar lookout towers in the surrounding area as well, all of which were erected for the specific purpose of monitoring the landscape for fires that threatened to destroy the forests.



Figure B.9. *Fire School Class, 1941*. CCC men participated in fire school classes where they were trained in how to effectively and efficiently fight fires, such as though the use of back pump fire extinguishers. Although this image shows training that took place Great Smoky Mountains National Park, similar classes were taught at Sesquicentennial State Park. Courtesy, Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

While men from the CCC diligently worked on erecting lookout towers in order to spot fires from afar, they were also engaged in the groundwork of suppressing fires on site. Camp P-71 in particular divided its time between constructing recreational and practical buildings within state parks, and performing “fire protective work,” which included physically putting out fires. Men in the CCC were taught how to properly combat fires “in accordance with the Regional firefighting training course,” and according to the Project Superintendent “all men had fire training.”<sup>150</sup> In addition to receiving instruction on how to properly and effectively extinguish forest fires, the Commission of Forestry also provided equipment to be used in fire management. In October of 1937 the first fire break units were purchased by the South Carolina Forest Service, which consisted of two tractors and fireline plows. While no transports were acquired at the time, the units were moved mostly by the personnel and equipment of the CCC, although occasionally private

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<sup>148</sup> “Gaudy Fire Tower at Sesqui Park Gives City View,” *The State*, 23 February 1940.

<sup>149</sup> For additional details and information on towermen and their responsibilities, refer to Fire Management in Section C.

<sup>150</sup> “Enrollee Training,” State Forester Inspection, June 19, 1941, RG 95, US Forest Service, Civilian Conservation Corps: 1935-1942, General Correspondence Plans-SC Work Projects, National Archives at Atlanta, Morrow, GA.



vehicles were hired for use under contract. By the following year, however, a transport unit was obtained, which included a truck and a tilt body trailer, in order to help facilitate quicker and more efficient mobility.<sup>151</sup>

Fire management was a serious business which encompassed the crucial role that the CCC played in building lookout towers that would help quickly identify fires, as well as physically fighting fires. Nevertheless, the men themselves also embraced this duty with a sense of humor. A cartoon depicted in *The Indian Speaks* shows a CCC man in full uniform with the caption, “smoak [sic] getting the men out to exercise.”<sup>152</sup> This sketch amusingly reveals that these men actively helped extinguish fires as the occasion arose, preventing flames from destroying the forests while simultaneously getting their exercise for the day.

## 9. Inventory of Extant Cultural Resources

**(a) The Lake.** The lake is significant because its construction prompted popular demand that the park open before its official completion. The lake’s popularity was important for early visitorship to the park, providing one the only resources in the city to alleviate the summer heat.<sup>153</sup>

**(b) Bathhouse.** The completion of the bathhouse marked the official opening of the park to the public in 1940. The Commission of Forestry did not consider Sesquicentennial State Park an official park until the bathhouse was finished and all activities were supervised.<sup>154</sup> The building provided restroom facilities and concessions to be used by the public. The creation of the bathhouse signified the need to centralize lake activities, manage facilities, and monitor not only the lake but also the swimmers.

**(c) Weddell Fire Tower.** Constructed of steel, the fire tower in Sesquicentennial State Park is significant because it is one of four fire towers in Richland County and was one of the highest points in the immediate area to monitor for fires.<sup>155</sup> The Civilian Conservation Corps men were responsible for moving the tower from Camp Jackson to its current location. This demonstrated the CCC’s cooperation with other state entities through using the park as a space to serve greater needs of the county. Today, however, the fire tower is not open to the public due to disrepair and the requirements of modern safety codes.

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<sup>151</sup> J. M. McLees, memo, 25 August 1966, Series 162006 Reading Files 1957-1974, State Commission of Forestry Records, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia.

<sup>152</sup> “Smoak Getting the Men Out to Exercise,” Cartoon, *The Indian Speaks*, 18 March 1938, Civilian Conservation Corps Papers, Civilian Conservation Corps (US) Company 4469, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

<sup>153</sup> “Sesqui Park Start to Be Next Year,” *Columbia Record*, 17 August 1939.

<sup>154</sup> “Sesqui Park Start to Be Next Year,” *Columbia Record*, 17 August 1939.

<sup>155</sup> “Lovely State Park Now Ready Just Outside of Columbia: Many Visitors Already Enjoy Recreation Spot,” *The State*, 10 March 1940.

**(d) *The Ranger's Residence.*** The ranger's residence allowed the park ranger to live on-site at Sesquicentennial State Park. The construction of the ranger's residence is significant because it demonstrates the Commission of Forestry's intentions to have direct, qualified management of the park.

**(e) *Latrine.*** The latrine utilized plumbing and electricity. Its construction signified the expectations of high visitorship and a desire to host up-to-date amenities in the park. This involved intensive planning, such as creating an infrastructure of indoor plumbing. The building also features painted concrete roof tiles designed to resemble clay terracotta tiles, which is a unique architectural feature for the Midlands of South Carolina. The latrine also features tiling on the wall matching the tiling on one of the picnic shelters. This is significant because it demonstrates architectural features not seen in other CCC-built structures in South Carolina.

**(f) *Pumphouse.*** The construction of the pumphouse demonstrated objectives in building a system of infrastructure for the park so that the park would be able to host amenities such as running water and sewage for visitor convenience and to serve park employees' daily operations.

**(g) *Spillway.*** The Civilian Conservation Corps created the twenty-acre lake by confining Jackson Creek's waters through a series of dams that are still intact today. These engineering efforts demonstrated the CCC's enduring construction abilities.<sup>156</sup> The spillway's height was lowered in order to not block any views of the lake, signifying careful measures taken by the Commission of Forestry in designing the park. It provided a natural soundscape that contrasts to the busy urban environment that ended up enveloping the park.

**(h) *Wooden Signs.*** Throughout the park are wooden signs that directed traffic, labeled parking, and labeled buildings were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The wooden signs signified the effort to build a park with accessible facilities for the public.

**(i) *Underground Storage Tank.*** The Civilian Conservation Corps built the underground storage tank as part of the park's infrastructure to allow for running water and sewage. This signifies efforts to offer amenities at the park for the public.

**(j) *Entrance Pylons.*** These CCC-built pylons are significant because they helped mark the entrance to the park to the public.

**(k) *Barbeque Pits.*** One of the first facilities to be complete in the park, the barbeque pits were used not only by the public but also by the Civilian Conservation Corps members during the construction of the park. They are significant because they provided recreational spaces for white citizens of the Columbia area. References to women gatherings for picnics in the park are abundant in newspaper articles of the period, as well as Girl Scout camps. Social events involving the preparation of food required a place to cook, so the barbeque pits offered visitors a space to do so.

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<sup>156</sup> "New Sesquicentennial State Park Welcomes Visitors: Facilities are Available to the Public," *The State*, 14 July 1940.

**(l) Entrance Signage.** The Civilian Conservation Corps built the entrance sign on Two Notch Road for the park. The sign is unique in its concrete construction and preannounced the style signage found at the facilities of the park. It is significant because it served as a unique, iconic gateway to the park.

**(m) Park Roads.** In the process of building the park, the Civilian Conservation Corps created roadways that connected roads within the park, parking lots within the park, and the park to Two Notch Road. This design is significant in demonstrating CCC efforts to make the park's amenities easy for visitors to maneuver. Additionally, the designed park roads signify the desire for automobiles to have access to the park so it could be a location for a day trip or a stop on a road trip.

**(n) Parking Lots.** The parking lots are significant because Sesquicentennial State Park was considered "outside" of the city of Columbia and visitors were dependent on automobiles to reach the park. Columbia Mayor Lawrence B. Owens and the City Council proposed the use of parking meters in the Sesquicentennial Park, but the Chamber of Commerce opposed vehemently.<sup>157</sup> Newspaper articles inviting the public to visit the park repeatedly emphasized the availability of parking lots. These efforts demonstrated administrative decisions to attract visitors to the park through accessibility for automobiles.

**(o) Picnic Shelters.** Remaining picnic shelters at the park are significant because they offered meeting places for white community members to gather at the park. They also featured terracotta-style roof tiles, a unique feature at Sesquicentennial State Park. One picnic shelter also featured a fireplace and decorative tiling on the wall, similar to the tiling found in the latrine. These are important features as it demonstrated architectural features not seen in other CCC-built structures in South Carolina.

## **10. Inventory of Vanished Cultural Resources**

**(a) Picnic shelters and barbeque area.** Although some picnic shelters remain, some are no longer extant. A map shows the original location among the ones that remain.<sup>158</sup> These are significant as they were also used by Civilian Conservation Corp workers while they were constructing the park. These areas served to be inviting spaces for the public, but also served importance as a logistical structure to be used by Civilian Conservation Corps members while they were working.

**(b) Piers.** Piers were built for the lake by the Civilian Conservation Corps to allow watercraft like small boats to safely enter the water. This signifies administrative desires for more recreational uses for the lake other than swimming, and also allowed for visitors to fish.

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<sup>157</sup> "Pay Parking Meters Are Opposed Here," *The State*, 6 December 1939.

<sup>158</sup> Rowena Nylund, Memorandum: "Picnic Shelter, Sesquicentennial State Park," 1996, Resource Management Office.

**(c) *Diving Dock.*** The diving dock built by the Civilian Conservation Corps had both low and high diving boards that lake-goers could enjoy.<sup>159</sup> These signify administrative efforts to create attractive amenities for visitors and were also used for swimming lessons.

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<sup>159</sup> "New Sesquicentennial State Park Welcomes Visitors: Facilities are Available to the Public," *The State*, 14 July 1940.

## C. Management of the South Carolina State Commission of Forestry, 1940 – 1967

### 1. Overview

From 1940 to 1967, the South Carolina State Commission of Forestry managed Sesquicentennial State Park as a site for white visitors from Columbia and the surrounding communities to interact with one another and the natural environment.<sup>160</sup> The first few years of the park's management under the Commission of Forestry were dominated by the onset of World War II in 1941. After the war, the Commission of Forestry continued to make fire management and fire prevention its primary goals together with forest management. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, visitation to the park grew exponentially. This growth spurred expansion of programs and events at the park, often hosted and organized by women. In managing a segregated park, the Commission of Forestry came to recognize the need for a separate park for African Americans in Richland County and worked with James Henry Hammond in the late 1940s to create this park. Despite their efforts, by 1949 the proposal to build a "blacks-only" park was abandoned. It is evident that the Commission of Forestry played a formative and important role in the early development of Sesquicentennial State Park. Its management of the park from 1940 to 1967 is evident today through a number of extant cultural resources associated with this time period.

### 2. Forest Management

As may be inferred from the agency's name, forest management was a primary responsibility of the Commission of Forestry in state parks throughout South Carolina. These responsibilities included a wide range of activities and technical assistance, such as promoting educational programs, providing practical advice to landowners, cultivating tree seedlings, and researching effective regeneration strategies and planting practices. As cut-over forests and unproductive land were recognized as problems, the Commission of Forestry responded by expanding its reforestation efforts.

One such initiative supported by the Commission of Forestry was an "intensive" educational program in 1949 titled "More Trees for South Carolina." This project was sponsored by the American Forest Products Industries, Inc. (AFPI), a national trade organization that undertook publicity and marketing for the forest industry. The program's purpose was to "educate and inform all timber landowners of South Carolina" about "the best forestry practices." The AFPI proposed financing informational literature, posters, and films that would promote the program and what it viewed as proper forest management practices. Forestry demonstrations would follow this advertising campaign, and then actual aid would be offered to landowners through the Commission of Forestry's "regular management assistance." Additionally, the AFPI proposed that the Commission of Forestry "supply the services of a technical forester suitable as Director for the Project," and the program received

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<sup>160</sup> During the Commission of Forestry's management of the park, records use "Commission of Forestry" and "Forestry Commission" interchangeably, although the agency's official name during this time does appear to be the Commission of Forestry. However, the present-day agency is referred to as the Forestry Commission and the change appears to have occurred sometime in the early 1960s.

widespread support.<sup>161</sup> Although the project was initially to be sponsored by the State Chamber of Commerce, due to “a number of reasons beyond [its] control” it was unable to do so. Recognizing the significance of the program, however, the American Legion took its place as a sponsoring agency. With financial and administrative support in place, this program proceeded to “intensify better management practices on forest lands, particularly in the smaller landowner group,” who could also request “technical assistance to handle their forestry problems.”<sup>162</sup>

The cultivation efforts of the Commission of Forestry were almost too successful. During the 1949 season, the commission’s nursery produced tree seedlings that reached an “unprecedented total” of thirty-seven and a half million. Orders had already been placed for nearly thirty million trees but a “substantial surplus” still existed. Although orders from small landowners within the state had increased, big orders from industrial and larger private holdings decreased substantially, thus forcing the commission to sell some of the seedlings out-of-state. Because “the trend in tree seedlings demand [was] definitely downward,” and there was “no point in producing trees for out-of-state sales,” the commission revised its plans for future seedling production accordingly. Nevertheless, continued educational programs were to be supported by the commission to “encourage tree planting within the state.”<sup>163</sup>

In 1951, however, officials were distressed about “the seriousness of the drain on the forest resources of the state.” Of particular concern to some members of the Commission of Forestry was the “increasing difficulty of finding large dimension standing timber,” caused by the expanding pulp industry in the state.<sup>164</sup> Pulp and paper companies continued to move into South Carolina and throughout the South. In 1956 the Commission of Forestry was called upon to investigate the present availability of timber and assess future production in comparison to estimated drain. While it was predicted that the pulp industry would significantly increase its demands in the coming years, the commission believed that “the present pine resources of the state will be able to withstand an additional drain to meet both the immediate present demands as well as the proposed expansions in the state.” In order to do so, however, it would be necessary that “further intensifications of protection from fire, insects and diseases, management assistance to the small private forest landowner, and a greatly accelerated reforestation program” be implemented. Yet, the commission continued to be “greatly concerned” in regard to the growth of sawlog mills throughout the South, since this would only further diminish timber resources in the future.<sup>165</sup>

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<sup>161</sup> “‘More Trees for South Carolina’ Program,” Commission of Forestry Meeting Minutes, 12 February 1949, Series 162032 Minutes and Attachments of the State Commission of Forestry: 1927-2011, State Commission of Forestry Records, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia.

<sup>162</sup> “‘More Trees for South Carolina’ Program,” Commission of Forestry Meeting Minutes, 24 January 1951, Minutes and Attachments of the State Commission of Forestry, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>163</sup> “Tree Seedling Production for 1950 Season,” Commission of Forestry Meeting Minutes, 3 February 1950, Minutes and Attachments of the State Commission of Forestry, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>164</sup> “Drain on Timber Resources of South Carolina,” Commission of Forestry Meeting Minutes, 24 January 1951, Minutes and Attachments of the State Commission of Forestry, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>165</sup> “Pulp Mills, Location of New Mills in State,” Commission of Forestry Meeting Minutes, 7 May 1956, Minutes and Attachments of the State Commission of Forestry, State Commission of Forestry Records.



In the face of such threats to South Carolina's forests, the Commission of Forestry continued to promote reforestation and proper forest management. Although occurring before the grim predictions about the future as the timber industry encroached deeper into southern forests, in 1953 the Commission partnered with the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station to conduct studies on the successful "regeneration of pine in extensive scrub oak areas," specifically in the Sandhills Region of South Carolina. They were especially interested in "planting practices" that included "survival and early growth of planted long-leaf pine."<sup>166</sup> Thus, even when faced with challenges from the timber industry and deforestation, the Commission of Forestry actively endeavored to promote and maintain good forest management.

### 3. Fire Management

Closely connected to forest management was fire management. After Sesquicentennial State Park opened its gates to the public in 1940, the Commission of Forestry oversaw the daily operations of the park, and fire management was a major concern that demanded significant time, attention, and resources.

**(a) *Effects of World War II on Fire Prevention.*** In the early years of the Commission of Forestry's management of Sesquicentennial State Park, the United States entered World War II. As part of the attempt made by the government and the armed forces to mobilize the nation and maximize the country's natural resources for the war effort, state and federal forestry agencies were tasked with implementing "wartime forest fire prevention programs." The purpose of these initiatives was to significantly reduce the number of manmade—and therefore preventable—forest fires that occurred annually, which was estimated to be around 200,000. Such fires not only destroyed acres of valuable timber, but they also diverted labor from factories and farms to firefighting. Thus, by 1944, there was "greater danger than ever" because wood was a "critical war materiel" and there were "fewer men to watch for and fight forest fires" at home. The Commission of Forestry therefore assumed a critical role in helping to "speed victory" through its active involvement in preventing forest fires. This involved circulating informational material to the public and adhering to simple rules, such as not burning in or near woodlands without a permit, never throwing matches or cigarettes away carelessly, and always ensuring that campfires were completely extinguished.<sup>167</sup>

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<sup>166</sup> "Memorandum of Understanding Between US Forest Service and Commission of Forestry Relative to Cooperative Project in Sand Hills Regeneration," Commission of Forestry Meeting Minutes, 9 April 1954, Minutes and Attachments of the State Commission of Forestry, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>167</sup> R. F. Hammatt, Director of Wartime Forest Fire Prevention Program to State Forester's Office, 19 April 1944, and enclosed "Forest Fire Prevention Materials," Series 162043 Forest Fire Protection Administrative Reference Files: 1933-1963, State Commission of Forestry Records.



Figure C.1. *Smokey the Bear Poster, 1945*. Smokey the Bear first appeared in 1945 as part of the national effort to promote fire safety in order to better protect valuable forest resources during World War II, although he was just one of many forms of propaganda geared toward fire prevention. Courtesy, United States Department of Agriculture.

**(b) Fire Prevention and National Defense.** During World War II, the United States and more specifically, the Department of Defense, was concerned not only with fighting enemies abroad, but also with potential enemy attacks and sabotage at home. Because the scale of the war required mass mobilization of men to foreign battlefields, there was particular concern over the protection of the homefront. National and state parks were considered strategic areas of the homefront.

As early as May 1942, the Military Intelligence Division G-2 requested information from the Commission of Forestry pertaining to forest fires “which have the appearance of having been enemy inspired.”<sup>168</sup> The division demanded that any information involving any fire that directly threatened a military installation or vital industrial plant be reported immediately. The division also requested that any fires that provided any “hint” that the objective of the incendiary was to hinder the American war effort was to be

reported, regardless of whether or not strategic facilities were involved.<sup>169</sup> On March 11, 1942, Regional Forester Joseph C. Kircher revealed the Commission of Forestry’s policy in regards to sabotage:

We should be prepared and warn the people to be prepared for saboteur incendiaries [sic]. Strategic areas are most likely to be hit; [...] heavy lumber production areas, areas along strategic power lines, or near railroad bridges, transcontinental railroads and certain critical internal operations. We should not make the people unduly alarmed about enemies setting fires from the

<sup>168</sup> J.R. Tiller, memo to all SC Rangers, 21 May 1942, Series 162040 State Parks Operation Files: 1937-1967, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>169</sup> J.R. Tiller, memo to all SC Rangers, 21 May 1942, State Parks Operation Files, State Commission of Forestry Records.

air except where forests are adjacent to defense plants, water storage facilities or other military objectives. Specific places where hazard is especially acute should not be mentioned.<sup>170</sup>

Not disclosing “acute” hazardous areas indicated the seriousness and sensitivity of this information amongst foresters. Publicity of potential enemy sabotaging of forests and parks was discouraged. In fact, the Commission of Forestry ordered employees to “not publicize, or even talk idly about, any specific cooperative work with the Interceptor Command or other Departments of the Army, which might better be left to the Army.”<sup>171</sup> While they were allowed to disclose cooperation with the Department of Agriculture War Boards or Civilian Defense Boards when it served a useful purpose, publicity was mainly to emphasize that “patriotic people will be careful with fires at all times.”<sup>172</sup>

**(c) Towermen.** One of the most significant ways in which the Commission of Forestry attempted to prevent and monitor forest fires was through lookout towers that were staffed by watchmen. These towermen, as they were most often referred to, quickly became an integral and essential part of fire management at Sesquicentennial State Park. Similar lookout towers were being erected throughout the country as part of a national effort to curtail forest fires. In South Carolina, towermen entered into a contract with the Commission of Forestry, which put them in charge of a specific tower, granted them a house, a few small buildings and land nearby, and outlined their duties.

Towermen were under the direct supervision of the District Forester and were required to maintain telephone lines and devote virtually all of their time to observation during the fire season, which lasted approximately from October 1 to May 31. In order to prevent fires from destroying woodlands, towermen were



Figure C.2. *View from the Lookout Tower, circa 1990s.* Situated on sand dunes high above the surrounding landscape, approximately 450 feet in elevation, the lookout tower at Sesquicentennial State Park offered an expansive view for towermen scanning the area for potential signs of fire. Courtesy, South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism.

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<sup>170</sup> Joseph C. Kircher, memo to SC State Forester, 11 March 1942, State Parks Operation Files, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>171</sup> Joseph C. Kircher, memo to SC State Forester, 11 March 1942, State Parks Operation Files, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>172</sup> Joseph C. Kircher, memo to SC State Forester, 11 March 1942, State Parks Operation Files, State Commission of Forestry Records.

tasked with “keeping a constant and vigilant lookout over the protective area and surrounding country for the first wisp of smoke and to report it.”<sup>173</sup>



Figure C.3. *Weddell Fire Tower, 2012*. Courtesy, National Historic Lookout Register.

The lookout tower was equipped with a telephone and a two-way radio, as well as an alidade, used for determining directions and measuring angles. If the keeper saw smoke, he immediately radioed or phoned the nearest lookout tower, which in the case of Sesquicentennial State Park could have been either Blythewood Tower or Blaney Tower. Once communication had been established, both towers would together acquire coordinates of the fire’s location using the alidade, and then they would triangulate the location. This procedure involved comparing the direction from each tower, drawing lines, and determining where the lines met in order to ascertain the precise location of the fire. Trucks and bulldozers would then be dispatched to the site of the fire in order to prevent it from spreading further and ultimately extinguish it.<sup>174</sup>

The major responsibilities of towermen fell under three general categories that included observation, telephone line maintenance, and upkeep of tower grounds. Perhaps the most important part of the job was observation, since

towermen literally became “the eyes of the fire control organization.” The Commission of Forestry was dependent on them to spot fires as soon as they began which was crucial because almost all fires reached by a crew within the first half hour could be extinguished with little damage. Otherwise, “disaster [was] sure to occur.” It was therefore essential that towermen knew the surrounding area that fell within their view intimately, knowing the location and names of every hill, ridge, creek, and swamp, as well as other landmarks. Towermen were expected to adhere to a very strict observation schedule and to maintain constant “vigilance and alertness” while scanning slowly back and forth over the landscape. While towermen did retreat to their homes once darkness fell and after one last survey of the area, during times of high fire danger when foliage was especially dry and winds were strong, night observation was often required. Occupancy of the tower was mandated at all times during fire weather,

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<sup>173</sup> “Contract for Employment of Towermen,” Forest Fire Protection Administrative Reference Files, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>174</sup> “Forestry Facts,” *The Sandscript*, January 1937, Civilian Conservation Corps Papers, Civilian Conservation Corps (US) Company 4469, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia; Mike Finch Jr., South Carolina Representative for the National Forest Fire Lookout Association, e-mail to Paige Weaver, 19 February 2019.



and meals were taken at specified and consistent times daily. Additionally, periodic daily telephone reports and written reports were part of the job.<sup>175</sup>

Towermen were tasked with discovering every fire within five minutes of it starting, and then immediately conveying the sighting to their Reporting Station. Fires were located in one of two ways. The first involved using an alidade device and map to determine the spot of the fire. If two towers spotted the same fire, they would work together to plot and determine the intersection of the fire location. Telephone line maintenance also fell within the towermen's duties, since the system connecting towers, rangers, and cooperators was "the only means by which they can receive prompt word of what you [towermen] see." Regular line maintenance involved going over the lines to check for potential problems and making all necessary repairs, which occurred at the beginning and the end of fire season, and periodically in between time. Towermen were also responsible for the upkeep and appearance of all buildings, fences, and grounds within the ten-acres that surrounded the tower site, which was owned by the Commission of Forestry. This included ensuring that the premise was in a "neat and orderly condition at all times," "mow[ing] the grounds" and taking "all reasonable steps to keep the weeds from growing to seed," and finally, "extend[ing] to all visitors to the tower every reasonable courtesy."<sup>176</sup>

Throughout the state of South Carolina, the Commission of Forestry enlisted the aid of more than just towermen to help manage fires. In 1949, State Forester Charles H. Flory reported that 236 full-time and 85 part-time workers were employed year-long in fire management. Additionally, 544 people were hired for less than twelve months a year to help with fire management. The Commission of Forestry also worked with cooperators, under both formal agreements and informal arrangements, to be available during fire emergencies. The state engaged with 2,864 workers in this nature, 46 of which were on retainer, while the rest were organized on a volunteer basis.<sup>177</sup>

**(d) Fires at Sesquicentennial State Park.** Despite detailed planning and devoted attention to fire prevention, the efforts of the Commission of Forestry could not always avert disaster. On March 25, 1947, a bout of unusually hot weather and severe wind caused the destruction of nearly one thousand acres of timber at Sesquicentennial State Park. It was reported that "almost a dozen forest fires, ranging in size from minor to major conflagrations, burned during the afternoon and illuminated the skies after dark." The towerman who observed the chaos stated that it looked like "the whole countryside was ablaze."<sup>178</sup> P.R. Plumer, Director of the State Parks Division at the time, referred to this incident as a "disastrous fire." He claimed that he was "personally aware of the embarrassment caused by this

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<sup>175</sup> "Instruction Handbook for Towermen," South Carolina State Commission of Forestry, Forest Fire Protection Administrative Reference Files, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>176</sup> "Instruction Handbook for Towermen," South Carolina State Commission of Forestry, Forest Fire Protection Administrative Reference Files, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>177</sup> Charles H. Flory to C. F. Evans, Assistant Regional Forester, 23 March 1949, Forest Fire Protection Administrative Reference Files, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>178</sup> The *Columbia Record* reported that 1,000 acres were burned at Sesquicentennial State Park, but the Commission of Forestry's records only mention this fire and do not confirm the acreage burned. More research is needed to confirm the *Columbia Record*'s claim. "Timberlands Burn: Damaging Winds Abate After Creating Havoc," *Columbia Record*, 26 March 1947.

catastrophe,” but that he would “do everything in [his] power to place the parks in a better position to carry on more effective fire suppression work.” Plumer recognized the effort of firefighters who went “above and beyond the call to duty,” without which “the park would not now be green and usable.” Additionally, he noted that “of principle benefit was the quick action which brought tractors and plows to the site,” as well as “the value of quick communication by radio which expedited counter measures.”<sup>179</sup>

**(e) Forest Fire Protection Plan.**

Notwithstanding Plumer’s compliments about the firefighters’ work, this devastating natural disaster caused the Commission of Forestry to bolster the park’s firefighting plan. The commission deemed new fire breaks necessary because those that did exist at the time were either too narrow to be fully effective or had not been adequately maintained. They recommended “a complete boundary fire break” that would be built “around the property and parallel to public roads,” which would “break up the areas sufficiently for normal fire protection.” Additionally, the park was to expand and enhance its firefighting equipment to include a pickup truck fitted with a pump, a water tank one hundred and ten gallons or larger, and at least forty feet of hose, as well as backpack pumps, fire rakes, and fire swatters.<sup>180</sup> By 1949, the Commission of Forestry was working in conjunction with the weather bureau in order to acquire “specific information on meteorological factors and fuel moisture which enter into fire control problems and activities.”

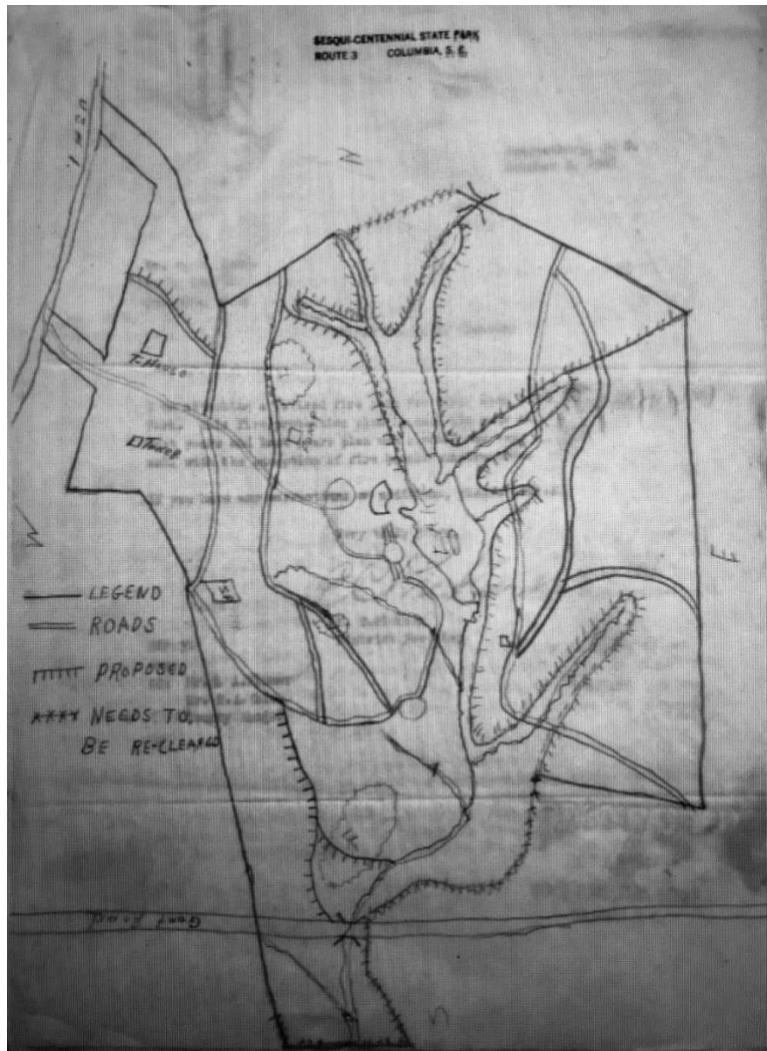


Figure C.4. Sketch of Old and Proposed Firebreaks and Roads at Sesquicentennial, 1949. This sketch shows old fire lines and roads, which totaled thirteen miles, as well as proposals for the construction of six miles of new firebreaks as part of increased efforts to improve fire prevention. Courtesy, South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

<sup>179</sup> P.R. Plumer, memo, 27 March 1947, South Carolina State Parks, Series 162037 Newsletters (SC Forestry and Park Notes, Tree Country: SC): 1945-1988, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>180</sup> Albin A. Lehocky, District Forester, to T. W. Cooper, 5 September 1947, and attached map, State Parks Operation Files; “Forest Fire Protection Plan, Sesqui-Centennial State Park,” 2 September 1947, Forest Fire Protection Administrative Reference Files, State Commission of Forestry Records.

Accordingly, the “entire fire control plan for the state” and the “activities of all unit personnel, regular and part time,” was “based upon fire weather conditions.”<sup>181</sup> Although forest fires would inevitably continue at Sesquicentennial State Park, such as one only eight years later that “endangered the State Park” in April 1952, the efforts of the Commission of Forestry significantly helped control and temper the otherwise devastating effects of forest fires.<sup>182</sup>

In addition to establishing plans and implementing strategies to fight fires, the Commission of Forestry made efforts to research previous fires to help prevent them from occurring in the future. For example, by 1947 the State Forester’s Office reported that the average size of fires had peaked in 1943 and had since declined. This likely resulted from “the fact that expenditures per acre and protected acreage over the period [had] increased,” which indicated both “a more adequately financed program” and “successful preventative efforts.” Reduction in the number of fires could also be attributed to favorably wet winter seasons, as was the case in the 1947-1948 fiscal year, which resulted in losses and damage due to fire dropping by 80 per cent in comparison to the previous year.”<sup>183</sup> Despite the commission’s best efforts to inform the public on fire safety, however, they found that smokers were the greatest cause of fires, topping the list at 34.7 per cent, while incendiary fires came in second at 21.6 per cent, and intentional brush burning at 18.5 per cent. Humans were therefore responsible for well over 50 per cent of forest fires, and the Commission of Forestry was determined to enhance law enforcement in an effort to curb such careless crime. Accordingly, prosecutions continued to rise, and convictions were very high.<sup>184</sup>

According to the Commission of Forestry, “forests, forest products and forest influences are of primary importance to the economy, health, and happiness of every citizen of South Carolina.” Although forests had “deteriorated greatly” under past management and methods of operation, it was believed that “their benefits and values can be multiplied three-fold, or more, if they are properly handled in the future.” In order to accomplish this goal, the first step was to implement adequate and effective forest fire protection. This involved a wide variety of “highly trained and well-equipped rangers, wardens, tractor operators, towermen,” as well as firefighting volunteers, who were dedicated to protecting the state’s natural forests from the destruction of fire. The Commission of Forestry also supplied “caches of hand tools” that were “to be used in fire suppression,” as well as “mobile equipment” that was “strategically located throughout the state” in order to be readily available when hands tools were not enough. Additionally, “an intensive educational campaign” was implemented throughout every county in South Carolina, “designed to reduce a large annual fire damage through fire prevention.”<sup>185</sup> Fire

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<sup>181</sup> J. R. Tiller, Assistant State Forester, to All District Foresters, 2 February 1949; J. R. Tiller to Frank C. Hood, 16 March 1949, Forest Fire Protection Administrative Reference Files, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>182</sup> C. West Jacocks, State Parks Director, to Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Martin, 21 April 1951, Newsletters (SC Forestry and Park Notes, Tree Country: SC), State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>183</sup> “Forest Fire Losses 1947-48 80 Percent Less Than Previous Year,” 1948, Forest Fire Protection Administrative Reference Files, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>184</sup> “South Carolina State Commission of Forestry Report,” 1947, Forest Fire Protection Administrative Reference Files, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>185</sup> Charles H. Flory, “Forest Fire Protection in South Carolina,” 21 June 1948, Forest Fire Protection Administrative Reference Files, State Commission of Forestry Records.



management was thus a significant aspect of the Commission of Forestry's daily operations of state parks, and, as a result, fire safety, preventative planning, and preparation helped save South Carolina's forests.

#### 4. Visitor Facilities and Programming

During the summer of 1941, when the CCC began transitioning out of Sesquicentennial State Park, the State Parks Division of the Commission of Forestry implemented programming and hosted numerous events. For example, Commission of Forestry formed and supported several softball teams and tournaments at the park.<sup>186</sup> Other events they supported included sports rodeos, fishing contests, statewide swimming and diving competitions, jousting competitions, musical programs, Girl Scout Day Camps, school field trips, and barbeques. Winners of the competitions were publicized in *The State*.<sup>187</sup> The park also became a popular gathering place for many kinds of groups. University of South Carolina fraternities held events like wiener roasts, and it became a popular picnic spot for churches and other community groups. *The State* published numerous articles advertising the park and its programming, including one that mentioned a caged bear either on or near park property.<sup>188</sup> The numerous and well-advertised park programming demonstrates that from its inception, Sesquicentennial State Park was highly valued and enjoyed frequently by white residents of the Columbia area.

One of the park's most popular attractions was the lake. In June 1941, the park began its Children's Program and advertised it in *The State*. This day camp emphasized nature education and also taught children how to swim. It cost 50 cents per week, which included transportation from Columbia to the park.<sup>189</sup> The park's emphasis on swimming safety continued with its implementation of a "Learn to Swim Drive" that began in July 1941 and cost 30 cents for children under 15 and 60 cents for adults.<sup>190</sup> In 1946, Sesquicentennial also hosted a free "Learn-to-Swim" program that included bus transportation from the city.<sup>191</sup> Learning to swim and water safety were big concerns for the State Parks Division of the Commission of Forestry throughout its management of the park. The park's lifeguards received high praise for successfully resuscitating two drowning victims during the summer of 1954, a summer with a high number of drownings statewide.<sup>192</sup> In early May 1955, State Parks Division Director C. West Jacocks

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<sup>186</sup> "Sesqui Softball League Formed," *The State* [Columbia, SC], 22 June 1941.

<sup>187</sup> "Short Casts," *The State*, 18 April 1948; "Sesqui Park Events Open at 3 o'clock," *The State*, 2 August 1941; "State Archery Joust at Sesqui-Park Today," *The State*, 9 August 1941; "Give Musical at Park Near City Wednesday" *The State*, 8 July 1941; "Girl Scouts Plan Day Camp Soon," *The State*, 5 June 1947; "State Teachers Mix Field trips with Classroom Resources Study," *The State*, 25 June 1959; "County Forestry Group Entertains With a Barbeque," *The State*, 15 May 1940.

<sup>188</sup> Donald Merrick, "Bear goes over the Mountain and Campers Wake Up Screaming," *The State*, 10 November 1960.

<sup>189</sup> "The Camera Records a Day at Sesquicentennial State Park by School Campers," *The State*, 27 July 1941; "Second Week Program Ends at Sesqui Park," *The State*, 22 June 1941.

<sup>190</sup> "Learn-to-Swim Drive at Sesqui Begins Monday," *The State*, 20 July 1941.

<sup>191</sup> "Free Swimming Lessons Will be Given at Park," *The State*, 13 July 1946.

<sup>192</sup> "Tragedy in Water," *The State*, 10 August 1954.

announced that all state parks had to build fences around swimming areas by the end of the month as a safety measure for swimmers and to prevent visitors from bringing food and trash into the water.<sup>193</sup>

**(a) World War II and Park Visitorship.** World War II affected the park in surprising ways and provided challenges to the park staff. Visitors tended to arrive at the park in droves during the war, particularly during the hours of 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm during the summer of 1942, requiring the park to increase staffing. As concession manager Freeman Huskey put it, “we realize that people must conserve their gas and tires, thus making it necessary to come to the park at a time when the whole family can enjoy the outing.”<sup>194</sup> *The State* reported that because the nation needed to conserve resources during wartime, visitors used Sesquicentennial State Park as a “vacation substitute” for their usual summer trips that were farther away. Even getting to the park from Columbia with fuel rationing was difficult. Public transportation for recreation was no longer allowed under law, so *The State* recommended that parkgoers take the regular Greyhound bus headed to Camden and then get off at the park. To get back to the city, they would need to stand on the side of the road and flag down a bus as it headed back to Columbia.<sup>195</sup> Soldiers’ wives organized picnics at the park for other women left behind while their husbands were serving overseas and for women whose husbands were training at nearby Fort Jackson.<sup>196</sup>

**(b) Park expansion proposals and facility improvements.** The park was immensely popular throughout the first decade of its existence. Sesquicentennial State Park was the most visited South Carolina state park in 1947 with 329,899 recorded visitors and an even higher number the year after.<sup>197</sup> During Independence Day weekend 1951, park superintendent Marshal Holder reported more than 24,200 people visited the park.<sup>198</sup> The park’s proximity to Fort Jackson also contributed to the high visitor numbers, especially during the Korean War when soldiers were



Figure C.5. *Old Abandoned Workshop, January 1955.* This workshop no longer met the park’s maintenance needs. Today, it no longer exists. Courtesy, Open Parks Network.

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<sup>193</sup> State Parks Newsletter, May 1955, page 34, Folder “State Parks Newsletters,” Series 162021 Construction and Maintenance Files: 1948-1966, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>194</sup> “Sesqui-centennial Serving Needs of Columbia People,” *The State*, 16 August 1942.

<sup>195</sup> “Suddenly Popular Sesqui-Centennial State Park is Adopted by Car-Short Columbians as Vacations Substitute,” *The State*, 28 June 1942.

<sup>196</sup> “Picnic Planned for Sunday by Soldiers Wives,” *The State*, 7 August 1942.

<sup>197</sup> Jake Penland, “Sesqui has Sunday Attendance of 11,482,” *The State*, 15 June 1948.

<sup>198</sup> “An Envious Record,” *The State*, 23 July 1951.

estimated to constitute half of the visitorship at Sesquicentennial State Park.<sup>199</sup> On July 31, 1946 the park held a festival to garner support for a possible park expansion project and an addition of facilities. The expansion and improvements were predicted to cost \$646,000 and included a new day use area, a convention and conference area, and campsite additions. James Henry Hammond led the campaign to expand the park.<sup>200</sup> Since the early 1940s Hammond advocated for a second man-made lake within Sesquicentennial.<sup>201</sup> Park officials and Hammond ultimately failed to acquire another lake and the other extensive, high-cost proposed additions.



Figure C.6. *Workshop, January 1955.* The park's new workshop, under construction here, was completed by March 1955. Located near the Senior Ranger's residence, it is still in use as a workshop today. Courtesy, Open Parks Network.

Technological advances and other smaller-scale building projects also took place during this time. In 1942, the Commission of Forestry constructed twenty-four additional picnic tables to accommodate the park's high numbers of visitors.<sup>202</sup> In July 1948, the Commission of Forestry built a new heavy timber picnic shelter. At 20x50 feet, this shelter was meant for large picnic groups.<sup>203</sup> The fire tower was equipped with radios in an experiment in 1946.<sup>204</sup> A necessary update, the original terracotta roof on the bathhouse was replaced in

1953.<sup>205</sup> In 1955, the Commission of Forestry completed the construction of a garage and workshop building for Sesquicentennial State Park. Previously, the park had no facilities available for housing tools, equipment, and vehicles.<sup>206</sup>

<sup>199</sup> "Fourth of July: State Parks Anticipate 100,000 Holiday Visitors," *The State*, 30 June 1951.

<sup>200</sup> "Improving Our Parks," *The State*, 24 July 1946.

<sup>201</sup> James Henry Hammond, memo to South Carolina State Parks Division, 1 February 1952, James Henry Hammond Papers, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

<sup>202</sup> "Sesqui-centennial Serving Needs of Columbia People," *The State*, 16 August 1942.

<sup>203</sup> "New Picnic Shelter Being Built at Sesqui," *The State*, 29 July 1948.

<sup>204</sup> "Radio-Equipped Trucks to Fight Forest Fires," *The State*, 16 September 1946.

<sup>205</sup> More research is needed on exactly why the bathhouse's roof was replaced. The evidence that confirms the roof was replaced in 1953 comes from the collection "Black and white negatives of South Carolina State Parks, 1934-1967" on Open Parks Network. See also Figure C.5 and C.6.

<sup>206</sup> State Parks Newsletter, October 1954, page 12, Folder "State Parks Newsletters," Construction and Maintenance Files, State Commission of Forestry Records.



Figure C.7. *Bathhouse, June 1947*. The bathhouse's terracotta roof was a design element original to the Civilian Conservation Corps' construction of the park's facilities in the 1930s. Courtesy, Open Parks Network.



Figure C.8. *Bathhouse, Summer 1962*. The replacement of the bathhouse's original roof in 1953 marked a significant change in the appearance of the park's designed landscape. Courtesy, Open Parks Network.

## 5. Race

From its creation, Sesquicentennial State Park was a segregated park. Under the management of the Commission of Forestry, the park's facilities remained segregated during the 1940s and 1950s and into the 1960s. In the late 1940s, Commission of Forestry officials and James Henry Hammond discussed the possibility of creating a state park for African Americans in Richland County. By 1950, however, these plans were abandoned. Despite its status as a whites-only park, Sesquicentennial State Park employed at least three African American laborers in the early years of the Commission of Forestry's management.

**(a) *Push for a Park for African Americans in Richland County.*** As early as 1941 in a report about South Carolina's parks and recreational facilities, the National Park Service and the South Carolina Commission of Forestry acknowledged the need to create black-only state parks. In line with the doctrines of "separate but equal" during legal segregation, they argued that because South Carolina's population was 57.1 per cent white and 42.9 per cent African American, South Carolina needed "numerous and well-distributed" separate parks for African Americans.<sup>207</sup> Because of the "low financial status" of African American populations, the report additionally argued that these parks should be located in proximity to African American neighborhoods and recommended Columbia be among the first cities considered for a black-only park.<sup>208</sup>

Requests for a park for African Americans in Richland County appear to begin in July 1947, spearheaded by African American civil rights activists Mrs. M.W. Johnson, Marion Paul, and James M. Hinton, president of the South Carolina chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). They were accompanied by Adele Minahan, a white activist from the Southern Regional Council. These activists met with State Forester Charles H. Flory and requested Richland County be considered for an African American park. The group argued that Richland County was most appropriate for a black-only park because the county's white population would be more receptive to the park than the white population of nearby Lexington County. Flory assured the group that if the Commission of Forestry could acquire the necessary funds, they would "readily proceed" with land acquisition and construction of facilities.<sup>209</sup> The Commission of Forestry's interest in cooperating with African Americans to create separate state parks was likely in response to civil rights activism across South Carolina throughout the 1940s that called for integration and equal access. In alignment with the "equalization" philosophy of segregationists, the Commission of Forestry improved existing segregated

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<sup>207</sup> "Parks and Recreational Areas of South Carolina," 1941, State Planning Board of South Carolina, Work Projects Administration, South Carolina Commission of Forestry, and National Park Service, pp. 17-18, State Parks Operation Files, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>208</sup> "Parks and Recreational Areas of South Carolina," 1941, State Planning Board of South Carolina, Work Projects Administration, South Carolina Commission of Forestry, and National Park Service, p. 43, State Parks Operation Files, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>209</sup> Charles H. Flory, memo, 9 July 1947, Folder "Proposed Black Park in Columbia Area," Construction and Maintenance Files, State Commission of Forestry Records.



recreational facilities for African Americans because they believed improvements would temper calls for full integration and ensure that state parks in South Carolina would operate on a segregated basis.<sup>210</sup>

Discussion of a park for African Americans in Richland County appears to be most frequent from July to November of 1948. These discussions usually occurred in conjunction with James Henry Hammond and park officials and explored the idea of adding a second lake at Sesquicentennial State Park for African American use. On July 15, 1948, Hammond wrote to Flory that he had met with the Chamber of Commerce of Columbia to generate interest in expanding Sesquicentennial State Park in this way. Hammond also mentioned that he was interested in helping create a separate park for African Americans because he thought it was a “shame that they haven’t a lake or a place to go.”<sup>211</sup> On July 22, Associate State Forester C.H. Schaeffer wrote to Hammond that the Commission of Forestry was “anxious and willing” to create a park for African Americans, but that the Richland County Legislative Delegation had been unreceptive to their requests in the past. Schaeffer proposed starting a survey of areas near African American neighborhoods and noted that the land should be located near a body of water that was downstream from bodies of water used by whites.<sup>212</sup> Schaeffer referenced the racist belief at the time that African American bodies contaminated water, rendering it unsafe or unappealing for whites. Schaeffer’s correspondence demonstrates that African Americans having a park in Richland County depended, in part, on the alleged risks that their park would pose for whites.<sup>213</sup>

By September 1949, park officials had identified land for sale near Fort Jackson that they thought had the most potential for development into an African American park.<sup>214</sup> By late September, after visiting the proposed site, Director of the State Parks Division C. West Jacocks determined that the land possessed more drawbacks than advantages and was not suitable for park development.<sup>215</sup> After 1949, efforts to create a black-only park in Richland County were abandoned.<sup>216</sup> James Henry Hammond wrote to the Columbia Chamber of Commerce in 1952 requesting that they consider land acquisition for two more lakes near Sesquicentennial State Park—one for African American use.<sup>217</sup> However, Hammond’s letter to the Chamber of Commerce in 1957 makes it clear that they had not proceeded

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<sup>210</sup> “Remembering and Acknowledging the History of Segregation in South Carolina State Parks,” Story Map, State Park Service, South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism.

<sup>211</sup> James Henry Hammond to Charles H. Flory, 15 July 1948, Folder “Proposed Black Bark in Columbia Area,” Construction and Maintenance Files, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>212</sup> C.H. Schaeffer to James Henry Hammond, 22 July 1948, Folder “Proposed Black Bark in Columbia Area,” Construction and Maintenance Files, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>213</sup> For more information about whites’ beliefs about water contamination, see D: The Civil Rights Movement Comes to South Carolina’s State Parks, 1956 – 1966.

<sup>214</sup> A. Schellenberg, memo to C. West Jacocks, 1 September 1949, Folder “Proposed Black Bark in Columbia Area,” Construction and Maintenance Files, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>215</sup> C. West Jacocks, memo, 21 September 1949, Folder “Proposed Black Bark in Columbia Area,” Construction and Maintenance Files, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>216</sup> It is unclear precisely why the proposal was abandoned. Because the Commission of Forestry meeting minutes for the 1950s frequently discuss the State Parks Division’s insufficient funding for maintenance of existing parks, it is possible that funding or budget concerns were significant contributing factors. Commission of Forestry Meeting Minutes, 9 April 1952 and 7 June 1954, Minutes and Attachments of the State Commission of Forestry, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>217</sup> James Henry Hammond to Robert Mobley, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce of Columbia, 17 December 1952, James Henry Hammond Papers.

with Hammond's earlier suggestions. In the 1957 letter, Hammond warned the Chamber of Commerce of the potential for "racial controversy" at Sesquicentennial State Park if park facilities were not made available to African Americans. Hammond urged them to work with park superintendent Marshall Holder in order to preempt what he thought was an inevitable confrontation.<sup>218</sup>

**(b) *Sesquicentennial State Park's African American Workers.*** While Sesquicentennial State Park excluded potential African American visitors, the park employed African Americans as laborers. Isom Roberts and his sons Willis and Rufus Roberts were employed by Sesquicentennial State Park from at least 1942 to 1948.<sup>219</sup> During that time period, Isom was listed as a "regular" employee. His job title was "laborer" and he worked in the park year-round. Rufus Roberts, also listed as a laborer, worked at the park from July 1942 to February 1943 and appears again in records from October 1947. Beginning in June 1944, Willis Roberts was listed as a "regular" employee who was both a laborer and a truck driver.<sup>220</sup> Even though the available payroll records are limited, the Roberts family's status as regular employees makes it likely that they worked at the park for an extended period of time. Additionally, because the park's payroll records only listed job titles, the specific kinds of work the Roberts family performed at the park is unknown. The Roberts' employment at Sesquicentennial State Park is significant because it demonstrates how African Americans were permitted within the park only as laborers to maintain the whites-only park, but not as park visitors with equal rights to use the park's recreational facilities.

## 6. Gender

Gender and women's roles at Sesquicentennial State Park during this period followed the broader traditional gendered culture of the country as a whole. Women's use of the park was similar to men's—as visitors who enjoyed in the park's many facilities and programs reserved for exclusive white use. However, women did take up more active roles in how they used the park: some women organized events or programming, while others served in positions on the park's staff. The influence of gender at Sesquicentennial State Park under the management of the Commission of Forestry is an area for future research.

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<sup>218</sup> James Henry Hammond to the Chamber of Commerce of Columbia, 7 August 1957, James Henry Hammond Papers. An integration challenge occurred at Sesquicentennial State Park led by the NAACP and university students on June 16, 1961. For more information about this event, see D: The Civil Rights Movement Comes to South Carolina's State Parks, 1956 – 1966.

<sup>219</sup> While both Willis and Rufus Roberts are listed as sons of Isom Roberts in the 1940 census, another African American male named Rufus Roberts, 46, was listed as living in Richland County in the 1940 census. Rufus Roberts was likely a relative of Isom's, but it's unclear if he was a brother or cousin. More research on available records from 1947 on is needed. 1940 United States Federal Census, Population Schedule for Richland County; Sesquicentennial State Park Semi-Monthly Payroll For Park Employees, State Parks Operation Files, State Commission of Forestry Records; Sesquicentennial State Park Semi-Monthly Payroll For Park Employees, October 1947, Sesquicentennial State Park files, Resource Management Offices, South Carolina State Park Service, Columbia.

<sup>220</sup> Sesquicentennial State Park Semi-Monthly Payroll For Park Employees, 1942-1945, State Parks Operation Files, State Commission of Forestry Records; Sesquicentennial State Park Semi-Monthly Payroll For Park Employees, October 1947, Sesquicentennial State Park files.



**(a) Female visitor involvement.** In addition to being simply visitors of Sesquicentennial State Park, many white women in the greater Columbia area took on active roles to create and implement public programming at the park. Beginning in June 1941, local women assisted in programing for children. Children who attended these programs engaged in “folk dances, all forms of sports, nature study, [and] new types of crafts suitable for both boys and girls.”<sup>221</sup> They were also taught how to swim by the life guards. The entire fee for the program, transportation, and bathhouse privileges was 50 cents per week.

In August 1941, women with the Columbia Exchange Club also assisted with the support of a “Children’s Program” at Sesquicentennial State Park. This was a day camp program that emphasized the education about natural environments and provided swimming lessons to 250 “underprivileged” children. These children also got to watch a movie, swim, play games, and eat.<sup>222</sup>

In addition to these children’s programs, in June of 1947 Ms. Theo Dehon, the chairwoman of the Richland County Girl Scouts, and Ms. Elizabeth Shealy, the executive director of the Richland County Girl Scouts, held a Girl Scout day camp at Sesquicentennial State Park that included swimming, outdoor cooking, arts and crafts, and nature study for around 100 local Girl Scouts.<sup>223</sup>

**(b) Female staff.** While women were limited in the work opportunities available to them due to the gendered culture of the period, some women did serve in staff positions at Sesquicentennial State Park and were employed alongside their husbands. One of the earliest positions held by a woman was found in the Commission of Forestry’s payroll records for the park. Myrteline Bell worked at the park as a dietician from the summer to fall of 1942.<sup>224</sup> Her husband, Willie P. Bell, worked as a carpenter during this period.<sup>225</sup> Mrs. E.J. Crawford was also a dietician and worked from the summer to fall of 1943. Her husband George Crawford was the head life guard for the park.<sup>226</sup> Following Crawford was Mrs. M.D. McConnell as the dietician from 1944 to at least 1946. Like the dieticians before, her husband, T.S. McConnell, worked at the park as the park director.<sup>227</sup> Examining the average pay salary for these women, they made an average of \$80 which was relatively good pay and only below that of the head life guard, assistant director, and park director’s average pay.<sup>228</sup> It appears that these dieticians mostly worked during the busier spring and summer months and were frequently absent from the payroll during the fall and winter. In addition to dieticians, other women worked as refreshment stand workers,

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<sup>221</sup> “Second Week Programing Ends at Sesqui Park,” *The State*, 22 June 1941.

<sup>222</sup> “Exchange Club to Entertain 250 Children,” *The State*, August 26, 1941.

<sup>223</sup> “Girl Scouts Plan Day Camp Soon,” *The State*, June 5, 1947.

<sup>224</sup> Sesquicentennial State Park Semi-Monthly Payroll For Park Employees, 13 July 1942, State Parks Operation Files, State Commission of Forestry Records; 1940 United States Federal Census, Population Schedule for Richland County.

<sup>225</sup> Sesquicentennial State Park Semi-Monthly Payroll For Park Employees, August 1942, State Parks Operation Files, State Commission of Forestry Records; 1940 United States Federal Census, Population Schedule for Richland County.

<sup>226</sup> Sesquicentennial State Park Semi-Monthly Payroll For Park Employees, 15 July 1943, State Parks Operation Files, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>227</sup> Sesquicentennial State Park Semi-Monthly Payroll For Park Employees, June 1944, State Parks Operation Files, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>228</sup> Sesquicentennial State Park Semi-Monthly Payroll For Park Employees, 1942-45, State Parks Operation Files, State Commission of Forestry Records.

like Betty Hooker, or dressing room attendants, like Ermenia Davis.<sup>229</sup> Not until the management of the South Carolina Department State Park Service would women take on more leadership positions within Sesquicentennial State Park.<sup>230</sup>

## 7. Inventory of Extant Cultural Resources

**(a) Weddell Fire Tower.** The Commission of Forestry's use of the Weddell Fire Tower demonstrates their management philosophy that emphasized forest fire prevention. Fire prevention was a means to control and manipulate the natural environment of Sesquicentennial State Park primarily for the benefit of human recreational use and resource extraction. For example, During World War II the primary danger of forest fires rested in their ability to divert the attention of wartime manpower to contain them, as well as their ability to render forests useless for materiel production. The threat of fire to state parks endangered the recreational facilities available for visitors. Forest fires also threatened to disrupt the Commission of Forestry's involvement in seedling production for sale. Finally, the Commission of Forestry's mission of forest fire prevention as demonstrated by Weddell Fire Tower indicates that they either disregarded or did not possess knowledge of the ecological benefits and necessity of fire to pine forests. These examples demonstrate that the Commission of Forestry's motivation for employing towermen was fueled not by the desire to protect natural resources for their own sake, but by the desire to protect them for how they may be useful to humans.

**(b) Towermen's Residence and Outbuilding.** When the CCC constructed fire towers, they also erected living and farming facilities for the use of fire tower operators. Towermen were required to live on-site during their employment. It is likely that the present-day senior ranger's residence was originally built to be the fire tower operator's home. There is an outbuilding near the current ranger's residence, but this structure's use during the Commission of Forestry's management of the park is unclear. The presence of on-site living facilities for towermen located adjacent to fire towers is significant because they are indicative of the Commission of Forestry's commitment to fire prevention and management. The facilities also demonstrate that the towermen's job during the fire season required virtually non-stop observation for forest fires.

**(c) Workshop.** By the mid-1950s, Sesquicentennial State Park's facilities bore the stresses of the heavy volume of visitors that visited the park during the summer months. To replace the existing workshop that no longer met the park's maintenance needs, State Parks Division officials approved the construction of a new workshop that was complete by March 1955.<sup>231</sup> This structure is significant for its association with the park's administrative history because in the present day, it is still in use as the park's workshop.

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<sup>229</sup> The records do not specify the race of the park's female employees. Sesquicentennial State Park Semi-Monthly Payroll For Park Employees, 27 June 1944, State Parks Operation Files, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>230</sup> For more information on women's roles in the park, see E: The Management of the South Carolina State Park Service, 1967—present.

<sup>231</sup> State Parks Newsletter, January-February 1955, page 26, Folder "State Parks Newsletters," Construction and Maintenance Files, State Commission of Forestry Records.

**(d) Parking lot.** By early 1955, Sesquicentennial State Park's main parking lot was modified to allow for double the existing amount of parking spaces. The parking lot's expansion is indicative of the park's status as one of the most-visited state parks throughout South Carolina. Because its expansion required cleared land, the modification of the parking lot additionally demonstrates the Commission of Forestry's philosophy that sanctioned alteration of the park's natural landscape for the benefit of human use.

## 8. Inventory of Vanished Cultural Resources

**(a) Outbuildings surrounding the Weddell Fire Tower and the Towerman's Residence.** Each fire tower's "subsistence unit" included a "dwelling barn, chicken house, smokehouse, well, fence, and latrine."<sup>232</sup> The equipment of fire towers with farming and living quarters testifies to the importance of round-the-clock forest fire prevention to the Commission of Forestry's management practices.

**(b) Lake piers.** Under the management of the Commission of Forestry, the beachfront and lake were extremely popular among Sesquicentennial State Park's white visitors. Because the piers no longer exist, they are significant for the problems associated with allowing large numbers of park visitors to swim in the lake. At least two visitors almost drowned at the park, and park officials were forced to enact measures to prevent visitors from bringing trash into the lake. These problems may have contributed to the piers' later removal.

**(c) Bathhouse roof.** The CCC constructed the roof of the bathhouse and the covered picnic shelter with stained concrete tiles designed to resemble Spanish-style clay terracotta tiles. Although the CCC's use of terracotta tiles was an unusual design choice for the Midlands of South Carolina, the tiles are consistent with the CCC's use of concrete in construction elsewhere throughout Sesquicentennial State Park. Under the Commission of Forestry's management on March 27, 1953, the bathhouse's appearance was altered by the replacement of its original roof materials.<sup>233</sup> Because visitor activity was concentrated in and around the bathhouse during the management of the Commission of Forestry, this alteration is significant because it marked a substantial change in the appearance of the designed landscape that visitors most frequently viewed and interacted with.

**(d) Old workshop.** While the exact location of the old workshop and the date of its demolition is unknown, the old workshop is significant because of its potential connection to Sesquicentennial State Park's African American laborers, Isom Roberts, Willis Roberts, and Rufus Roberts. The old workshop was in use right up until the new workshop's construction in the early months of 1955, therefore it is likely that the Roberts family relied on this structure daily to perform their job duties.

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<sup>232</sup> While the records are unclear that Weddell Fire Tower specifically was equipped with some or all of these quarters, the records do make clear that all fire towers constructed by the CCC were equipped with these facilities, so we can assume this was also the case for Weddell. South Carolina State Commission of Forestry, "Fire Control Annual Report," Forest Fire Protection Administrative Reference Files, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>233</sup> South Carolina State Commission of Forestry, *Sesquicentennial State Park: Repairs on Bathhouse Roof*, 27 March 1953, black-and-white negative, Open Parks Network.

## D. The Civil Rights Movement Comes to South Carolina's State Parks, 1956 – 1966

### 1. Overview

Since the 1930s, state parks, especially in South Carolina, were sites of challenge by the Civil Rights Movement. Whites-only parks had been created as a result of segregationist policies, but state parks' access to lakes and other shared water-spaces added another layer to the desire to keep African Americans separate. Whites feared sharing pools, lakes, or rivers with African Americans as they believed African Americans were diseased and filthy. As such, African Americans were denied access to the existing state parks, and separate blacks-only parks (of inferior quality) were established in response to demands for park spaces.

From 1956 to 1966, the state parks of South Carolina faced more ardent challenges to their segregated status. African Americans expressed their dissatisfaction with the poor conditions of the parks that had been set aside for them. After *Brown vs. Board of Education's* desegregation decision was extended to all public sites, including state parks, African Americans in South Carolina attempted to enter parks throughout the state. Their attempts, along with the desegregation orders, were met with intense white hostility and backlash from legislators, park officials, and the public. Desegregation efforts often led to the closure of state parks. Sesquicentennial State Park faced its own challenge in 1961, and it is representative of all aspects of the Civil Rights Movement in South Carolina state parks.

### 2. Civil Rights in South Carolina State Parks

South Carolina's state parks were created during the time period of legal segregation, and from the beginning their operation reflected inherently racist segregation practices and policies in the state. Many of the early state parks were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a federal Work Progress Administration program that South Carolina embraced relatively early.<sup>234</sup> The CCC work units were segregated, and in some instances where black units were sent to building projects they received so much backlash from local communities that the black units were replaced with white units to ease local racism. This occurred in an incident involving CCC use of the lake at Poinsett State Park, and although there was not a black unit at Sesquicentennial, the white CCC unit clashed with black soldiers from Fort Jackson over use of a local YMCA lake.<sup>235</sup>

Almost as soon as South Carolina state parks were built and opened in 1938, African American leaders and community members asserted their right to these public natural resources and recreation

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<sup>234</sup> "History of State Parks in South Carolina," South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, accessed April 4, 2019, <https://www.scprrt.com/parks/park-service-history>.

<sup>235</sup> Kate Schoen, *Historic Preservation and Interpretation Plan for the Barn/Segregated Servant's Quarters*, Public History Report, dated December 2017, Copy on file at Resource Management Offices, South Carolina State Park Service, Columbia; Robert A. Waller, *Relief, Recreation, Racism: Civilian Conservation Corps Creates South Carolina State Parks, 1933-1942*, (Xilbris: 2017).

spaces.<sup>236</sup> The Commission of Forestry reluctantly responded to these demands by building three parks, Pleasant Ridge, Campbell's Pond, and Mill Creek, as African-American-only parks. They also created segregated African-American-only areas at Lake Greenwood, Hunting Island, and Huntington Beach.<sup>237</sup> For Sesquicentennial State Park, a significant amount of time and resources were invested in planning for a separate black park.<sup>238</sup> Initially, the Commission of Forestry tried to maintain the status quo by simply providing unequal and separate spaces for African Americans, such as the segregated area at Lake Greenwood built in the 1930s that had no lake access (due to white fears about water contamination).<sup>239</sup> African Americans continued their civil rights advocacy after 1938, both with and without the support of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). In one instance from 1940, African Americans from Sumter organized a picnic for 150 people and attempted to gain entry to Poinsett State Park. They were denied and redirected to the nearby unfinished black-only Mill Creek Park. This event remains an example of the kind of local community organizing that was occurring throughout the state targeting park segregation.<sup>240</sup>

When the Commission of Forestry's efforts to create separate black parks failed to curb activism, officials attempted to build new black-only facilities to prove that separate was indeed equal. These attempts are broadly known as "equalization" efforts. When J. Arthur Brown, head of the Charleston chapter of the NAACP, attempted to gain entry to the whites-only Edisto Beach State Park, equalization efforts were used to justify his exclusion. Brown, along with other members of the Charleston NAACP, filed the first lawsuit against the state parks system that challenged segregation in 1956. Brown was later heavily involved in other challenges to segregated water at Myrtle Beach State Park in 1960 and at Sesquicentennial in 1961. As the Forestry Commission realized that they would likely lose the Edisto Beach lawsuit because of the implementation of *Brown v. Board*, they decided to close the beach rather than



Figure D.1. A sign posted at Edisto State Park notifying potential visitors of the closure, due to the Forestry Commission's refusal to integrate. Courtesy, South Carolina Forestry Commission.

<sup>236</sup> Emily Martin, "Civil Rights Memory Sites in South Carolina State Parks," Story Map Series, South Carolina State Park Service, <https://scsps-rmi.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=ba1266d70d7647fa95f987338a358aa4>.

<sup>237</sup> Martin, "Civil Rights Memory Sites in South Carolina State Parks."

<sup>238</sup> For more information on the plans to build an African American park as a black alternative for Sesquicentennial State Park, see C: Management of the South Carolina State Commission of Forestry, 1940 – 1967.

<sup>239</sup> Martin, "Civil Rights Memory Sites in South Carolina State Parks."

<sup>240</sup> Schoen, "Historic Preservation and Interpretation Plan for the Barn/Segregated Servant's Quarters."

be forced to integrate. Edisto Beach State Park remained closed for over a decade.<sup>241</sup> This lawsuit laid the groundwork for future lawsuits to contest the illegality of the park system's response, including an important lawsuit at Sesquicentennial.

### 3. A Civil Rights Challenge at Sesquicentennial State Park

On June 16, 1961, a group of university students, and the local NAACP field secretary, Rev. I. DeQuincy Newman, as well as J. Arthur Brown, leader of the Charleston NAACP, organized an integration challenge and attempted to enter the front gates of Sesquicentennial State Park on Two Notch Road. The students were from Allen University and Benedict College and were Murry Canty, Edith Davis, Sam Leverett, Mary Nesbitt, H. Lloyd Norris, Jr., and Gladys Porter.<sup>242</sup> When the group approached the front gates, they were met by park staff and law enforcement with raised clubs ready to bar their entry. The group had anticipated this response and, in an oral history interview years later, H. Lloyd Norris, Jr. spoke about this exact moment:

The captain of the squad of highway patrolmen gave orders to his men to raise their billy clubs and be prepared for an assault. But Mr. Newman would give us orders and one was to retreat rather than get hit. We did retreat. Then he had us do it again so he could ask the captain of the guard "Why can't we be admitted as citizens of South Carolina and taxpayers." The captain of course quoted the existing law which permitted only white citizens to use Sesquicentennial and other parks. Later we learned that Mr. Newman wore something that looked like a watch, but it was a recorder. He got the words of the captain . . . and he said "This is what I need. Let's go." So we left the park.<sup>243</sup>

Norris's account of the challenge demonstrated how Columbia area students fighting for civil rights obtained the support and backing of the NAACP. As seen through Norris's testimony, that support in the form of Rev. Newman and his recording, was crucial, as well as Newman's assistance in helping the students to file a complaint and hire civil rights attorney Matthew Perry.<sup>244</sup> The lawsuit that followed, *Brown v. South Carolina Forestry Commission*, would take two years to be heard but it challenged segregation in the entire park system. After the first lawsuit challenging segregation at Edisto Beach, the South Carolina NAACP adjusted its legal tactics to target not just individual parks, like with Edisto case, but the state parks system as a whole.<sup>245</sup> This systemic approach adopted by the NAACP

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<sup>241</sup> Al Hester, "Remembering and Acknowledging the History of Segregation in South Carolina State Parks," Story Map Series, South Carolina State Park Service, <https://scsps-rmi.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=f7d41a2e8288446ea6bda99390b45f95>.

<sup>242</sup> Liz Koele and Emily Martin, "Civil Rights at Sesquicentennial State Park: A History and Preservation Plan for the Entrance of Sesquicentennial State Park in Columbia, SC," Public History Report, December 2017, copy on file at the Resource Management Offices, South Carolina State Park Service, Columbia, SC.

<sup>243</sup> H. Lloyd Norris, Interview with Alice Bernstein, in South Carolina State Parks, "Challenging Segregation at Sesquicentennial State Park," in "Remembering Segregation in South Carolina State Parks," Story Map; Koele and Martin, "Civil Rights at Sesquicentennial State Park."

<sup>244</sup> Koele and Martin, "Civil Rights at Sesquicentennial State Park."

<sup>245</sup> Stephen Lewis Cox, "The History of Negro State Parks in South Carolina, 1940-1963," M.A. thesis, University of South Carolina, 1992, 76.

during the 1960s was crucial to their eventual success, despite two years of pushback and legal maneuvering on the part of the state in order to resist court-ordered desegregation.<sup>246</sup>



Figure D.2. Temporary lake closure at Sesquicentennial. Courtesy, *The State*, June 1961.

*Brown v. South Carolina Forestry Commission* was heard by Federal District Judge J. Robert Martin on April 18, 1963. He would take three months to release his ruling. Ultimately, on July 10, 1963, Judge Martin ruled that South Carolina's state parks must desegregate and that they must be opened to visitors of any race within sixty days of his order.<sup>247</sup> The NAACP's victory was

met with immediate pushback from the white community and white-controlled state. On the recommendation from the attorney general, the Forestry Commission decided to close the entire park system rather than follow Judge Martin's integration order.<sup>248</sup>

#### 4. White Resistance to Parks Desegregation

Despite the decade-long trend of federal rulings affirming civil rights, the state of South Carolina resisted efforts at desegregation. In the years after the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling, South Carolina legislators participated in a campaign of massive organized resistance that used legislative tactics to delay and prevent desegregation. As civil rights activists challenged desegregation in other public spaces, including state parks, white South Carolinians utilized the same resistance tactics they had used to prevent integration of public schools.

The order from Judge Martin in 1963 provoked backlash from legislators and park officials. Governor Donald Russell responded to the ruling the following week in a press conference, arguing that, "under the present legislation, the parks can only be operated on a segregated basis" and that to

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<sup>246</sup> For example, the state attempted to have the plaintiffs (combined students from the Sesquicentennial challenge and a Myrtle Beach challenge) listed as a "non-resident corporation" because they were members of the NAACP, in hopes that the case would be dismissed. For more, see Koele and Martin, "Civil Rights at Sesquicentennial State Park."

<sup>247</sup> "Closing of State Parks Proposed," *The State* [Columbia, SC], 18 July 1963.

<sup>248</sup> Cox, "The History of Negro State Parks in South Carolina, 1940-1963," 88; see also Koele and Martin, "Civil Rights at Sesquicentennial State Park."



operate them in a desegregated manner “would require legislation.”<sup>249</sup> C. West Jacocks, State Park Director of the Commission of Forestry, noted, however, that the ruling had been expected by the state. “I think [Judge Martin’s ruling] was inevitable,” he told reporters, but “what we are to do with the state parks is something that must be determined by the proper officials.”<sup>250</sup>

The most resistance among state officials came from members of the Gressette Committee, more formally known as the South Carolina Schools Committee. The committee was formed in 1951 as a direct response to South Carolina’s *Briggs v. Elliott* court case that sought to desegregate public schools. It was commonly known as the “Segregation Committee” or as the “Gressette Committee” after its chairman Marion Gressette, a state legislator from Calhoun County. Its main purpose was to maintain segregation in public schools in the 1960s, but it also expanded its focus to other public spaces. Committee chairman Marion Gressette was virulently opposed to integration in any form and was also active in the White Citizens Council.<sup>251</sup> In the wake of Judge Martin’s order to desegregate the parks, the Gressette Committee proposed that the parks close rather than desegregate.<sup>252</sup>

Attorney General Daniel McLeod also recommended that the state parks close rather than desegregate. He based his argument on the legislation implemented after the desegregation challenge at Edisto State Park, which stated that “The South Carolina State Forestry Commission is hereby authorized and directed forthwith to close the State Park at Edisto Beach and place it under a caretaker for safekeeping until further action is taken by the Legislature for the disposition of the properties of the State at Edisto Beach State Park.” In a letter to Fulton Creech, the chairman of the Forestry Commission, the attorney general argued that “it is my opinion that the effect of the Order of the Federal Court is to deprive the Commission of Forestry of authority to admit the public to the State Parks until such time as the General Assembly shall otherwise direct.”<sup>253</sup>

As a result of these recommendations, on August 20, 1963, three weeks before the date Judge Martin had issued for park integration, the Forestry Commission officially closed all state parks in South Carolina.<sup>254</sup> After this closure the General Assembly formed a subcommittee to study the parks issue,

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<sup>249</sup> “Russell on State Parks Integration—Outtakes,” 21 July 1963, Moving Image Resource Collection, University of South Carolina, <https://mirc.sc.edu/islandora/object/usc%3A39517>.

<sup>250</sup> “Jacocks on State Parks Integration—Outtakes,” Moving Image Resource Collection, University of South Carolina, <https://mirc.sc.edu/islandora/object/usc%3A39256>.

<sup>251</sup> White Citizens Councils (WCC) were created by white segregationists in response to *Brown v. Board of Education*. According to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute at Stanford University, WCCs used “violence and intimidation to counter civil rights goals...[and] sought to economically and socially oppress blacks.” For more information, see <https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/encyclopedia/white-citizens-councils-wcc>. Gressette, for example, spoke before the State Meeting of the South Carolina Association of Citizens Councils in 1959. “Gressette Committee,” in *South Carolina Encyclopedia*, accessed April 4, 2019, <http://www.scencyclopedia.org/sce/entries/gressette-committee/>. Clipping, “SC to Close Its Schools If Right to Operate Denied,” 24 June 1959, William Workman Papers, Folder “Clippings,” Box 44, South Carolina Political Collections, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

<sup>252</sup> “Closing of State Parks Proposed,” *The State*, 18 July 1963.

<sup>253</sup> Daniel McLeod to Fulton Creech, 19 August 1963, Folder “Data—Parks,” Series 165250 Petitions to Close Parks, Questionnaires, Surveys, and Reference Files, South Carolina House of Representatives State Park (Desegregation) Study Committee Records, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia.

<sup>254</sup> “The Parks Issue and the Opinions,” *The State*, 8 December 1963.

headed by J. Clator Arrants of Kershaw. The Arrants Committee—as it came to be known—held public hearings throughout the fall of 1963 with ten hearings throughout the state in September and October.<sup>255</sup> In addition to those hearings, they received written feedback from the public, and they sought input from legislators, local officials, and law enforcement.

The decision to close the state parks was controversial among South Carolinians, black and white alike. Some supported the decision to close or even sell the parks rather than desegregate, but most advocated for the parks remaining open. Among those South Carolinians who wanted the parks to remain open, rationales differed. Civil rights activists and many black South Carolinians argued that the reopened parks be integrated in all their facilities on an unrestricted basis.<sup>256</sup> Some white South Carolinians felt legislators should find a way to keep the parks open on a segregated basis. Others wanted the parks open in a limited capacity that kept contact between black and white visitors at a minimum.

Among white South Carolinians, most people who contacted the subcommittee either in writing or at public hearings wanted the parks to reopen, but they still supported segregation and white supremacy and were wary of integrated parks. State Representative Norman West typifies this view. In his letter to Arrants, he writes:

I do not feel that the State can under the circumstances consider, at present, disposal of any of our parks. However, I do not believe that the provision of recreational facilities for the public on a non-segregated basis is at all advisable. My thinking is that the State Parks should be retained by the State, held open to use by the general public without discrimination without the provision by the State of any facilities for any person whatsoever.<sup>257</sup>

In other words, West wanted the open natural spaces to be open to the public, but he did not want any facilities to be provided. He and others like him attempted to straddle the issue—they wanted to keep the parks open but minimize contact between black and white visitors.

James Henry Hammond, so influential in the creation of Sesquicentennial State Park, was of a similar mind—committed to keeping the parks open but opposed to full integration. In a letter to C. West Jacocks, he writes:

I do hope that everything will be done to preserve all parks in the state, but as you would naturally expect I am particularly interested in the Sesquicentennial. We don't have to have these

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<sup>255</sup> List of Hearings, Folder "Data—Parks," Petitions to Close Parks, Questionnaires, Surveys and Reference Files, South Carolina House of Representatives State Park (Desegregation) Study Committee Records.

<sup>256</sup> "Reopening of State Parks Gets Almost Complete Okay," *The State*, 2 October 1963.

<sup>257</sup> H. Norman West to J. Clator Arrants, 24 September 1963, Folder "Data—Parks," Petitions to Close Parks, Questionnaires, Surveys and Reference Files, South Carolina House of Representatives State Park (Desegregation) Study Committee Records.

blackguard Kennedys on our hands all the time, so if we can limp along until decent people, honorable people and get a gentleman in the White House, maybe something can be done.<sup>258</sup>

Hammond hoped that the parks could be opened on a segregated basis if national political winds shifted back towards segregation.

## 5. Water “Contamination”: White Fear and Civil Rights

One of the major battlegrounds of the desegregation movement in the 1950s and 1960s was public pools and beaches. These became hotly contested spaces where integration movements sometimes led to significant confrontation. The fight for the desegregation of Sesquicentennial State Park, as well as most of the state parks in South Carolina, was often a battle for integrated access to and use of water.

Why were these public water spaces so contested and such a source of white hostility? Historian Jeff Wiltse has offered one explanation. Swimming pools are intimate spaces, in terms of both physical proximity with others and exposure of one’s own body. In pools, lakes, and other shared water spaces, fears of pollution and dirt from others were frequently racialized. As Wiltse argues, “there were racist assumptions that black Americans were dirtier than whites, that they were more likely to be infected by communicable diseases. And so, in part, the push for racial segregation and racial exclusion was for white swimmers to avoid being infected by the supposed ‘dirtiness’ of black Americans.” He adds that another component of white fear was closely connected with white ideas about sexual purity and protecting white women from blacks: “Most whites did not want black men, in particular, to be able to have access to white women at such an intimate public space.”<sup>259</sup>

Civil Rights “wade-ins,” the pool and beach versions of the well-known sit-ins, regularly catalyzed harsh reactions across the country. For example, the Biloxi wade-ins in Mississippi from 1959 to 1963 led to one of the bloodiest race riots in the state’s history in 1960.<sup>260</sup> In Buffalo, New York, the Crystal Beach Boat Race Riot in 1956 was caused by African Americans attempting to integrate Lake Ontario’s Crystal Beach and the steamship that carried visitors to the park. Although neither the beaches nor the steamship were segregated by law, African Americans tended to keep away. When they did attempt to step foot in the boat and on the beach, violence followed.<sup>261</sup>

South Carolina state park officials were aware of the intense feeling that racially shared water inspired. One memo mentioned how integration of swimming pools in Baltimore caused all the pools

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<sup>258</sup> James Henry Hammond to C. West Jacocks, 6 September 1963, Folder “For,” Petitions to Close Parks, Questionnaires, Surveys and Reference Files, South Carolina House of Representatives State Park (Desegregation) Study Committee Records.

<sup>259</sup> Jeff Wiltse (author of “Racial History of American Swimming Pools”), interview by Rachel Martin and Mike Pesca, *NPR: The Bryant Park Project*, podcast/radio show audio, 6 May 2008. See also Wiltse’s *Contested Waters: A Social History of Swimming Pools in America* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2007).

<sup>260</sup> Gilbert R. Mason and James Patterson Smith. *Beaches, Blood, and Ballots: A Black Doctor’s Civil Rights Struggle*. University Press of Mississippi, 2000.

<sup>261</sup> Victoria W. Wolcott “Recreation and Race in the Postwar City: Buffalo’s 1956 Crystal Beach Riot.” *The Journal of American History* 93, no. 1 (2006): 63-90.



Figure D.3. *Sesquicentennial State Park, 1979*. Courtesy, Russell Maxey Photograph Collection, Richland Library, Columbia, SC.

(but one) in the city to close.<sup>262</sup> It also pointed out how swimming areas were a major sticking point for integration to the people of North Carolina.<sup>263</sup> Another letter from State Park Director T. D. Ravenel to an editor for *US News and World Report* discussed how integration of beaches and pools in Maryland (specifically Baltimore), Virginia, and South Carolina (Edisto Beach) were uniquely contentious issues and often resulted in the recreation sites falling into disuse.<sup>264</sup> Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1964 faced its own public pool crisis seven years after the more famous Civil Rights Movement incident in that city. When activists tested the new civil rights law at Little Rock's pools, they were still denied access, and the pools were promptly closed throughout the city. Over the next year, debates raged on whether to sell the pools to private enterprises or try to keep them segregated.<sup>265</sup> Finally they were opened and integrated, but the city's African Americans noticed that fewer whites were using the pools. Indeed, throughout the

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<sup>262</sup> Memo from Ravenel to Jacocks, 11 August 1956, 1, Series 162024 State Parks Desegregation Files 1955-1966, State Commission of Forestry Records, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia.

<sup>263</sup> Memo from Ravenel to Jacocks, 2, State Parks Desegregation Files 1955-1956, State Commission of Forestry Records. .

<sup>264</sup> T. D. Ravenel to David Lawrence, 15 August 1956, Series 162024 State Parks Desegregation Files 1955-1966, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>265</sup> John A. Kirk "Going Off the Deep End: The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Desegregation of Little Rock's Public Swimming Pools." *The Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 73, no. 2 (2014): 138-63.

country, in the decades since integration public pool use and construction fell dramatically in favor of private and personal pools.<sup>266</sup>

South Carolina was not free from these issues and white fears, but the reactions in the state and at Sesquicentennial were somewhat milder. Some black-only state parks were built in South Carolina, but these generally had little or no access to waterways that whites could also access. Greenwood State Park, built in 1938, was an African American park with no access to Lake Greenwood. Its bathing facilities were also separate, about two miles *downstream* from the white park. After Edisto Beach closed in 1956 when faced with the challenge of integration, it again became a site of tension when in 1965 a group of thirteen black and white students visited the closed beach to relax from Civil Rights activism. Although arrested, they helped desegregate and reopen Edisto Beach. An attempted wade-in at Myrtle Beach State Park on August 30, 1960 resulted in two members of the movement, Rev. Isaiah DeQuincey Newman and Gerald Friedberg, being chased to Horry County by a white mob.<sup>267</sup>

## 6. Conceptualizing Water Contamination at Sesquicentennial State Park

Battles for integration of Sesquicentennial State Park similarly focused on access to water recreation because the lake and beach were the park's main attraction. In state parks in general and at Sesquicentennial specifically, the resistance towards interracial intimacy manifested in a fixation on cabins and swimming areas—places where black and white bodies would come into closer contact. For the people who contacted the Arrants Committee in opposition to the parks reopening, many singled out the swimming areas. One especially racist and offensive letter writer wrote that “I personally do not think anyone should be forced to eat with a skunk sitting near by [sic] to foul [sic] the air, nor should be

forced while swimming, to allow such uncivilized people to socialize with him.” Another writer built upon resistance to school integration, sending a pre-printed card announcing: “I am a WHITE American ready to FIGHT to keep WHITE school WHITE” where he or she had added “AND POOLS” (see Figure D.4).<sup>268</sup>

( ) My family will boycott 'integrated' pools.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Bus. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

**I am a WHITE American ready to FIGHT  
To keep WHITE school WHITE AND POOLS**

☐ I attach hereto \$1 for which please enroll me as a member of SEPARATE SCHOOLS for 1 year.

☐ I volunteer for \_\_\_\_\_ hours work monthly at assigned tasks.

☐ Enroll me as a sustaining member, I wish to give \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month.

☐ Enroll me as an associate member without charge.

**Separate Schools Inc P O Box 1 Atlanta 1 Georgia**

Figure D.4. Notecard sent to the Arrants Committee. Courtesy, South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

Another writer tied the sharing of swimming spaces to sexually transmitted infection and used fear-mongering tactics to connect intimacy to water. They sent a flyer announcing: “America’s Black Belt Is

<sup>266</sup> John Kirk, “Swimming against the tide of desegregation in Little Rock,” *Arkansas Times*, 6 February 2014, <https://www.arktimes.com/arkansas/swimming-against-the-tide-of-desegregation-in-little-rock/Content?oid=3199765>.

<sup>267</sup> Hester, “Remembering and Acknowledging the History of Segregation in South Carolina State Parks,” Martin, “Civil Rights Memory Sites in South Carolina State Parks.”

<sup>268</sup> Postcard from unknown sender, undated, Petitions to Close Parks, Questionnaires, Surveys, and Reference Files, South Carolina House of Representatives State Park (Desegregation) Study Committee Records.

the VD Belt,” accompanied by another flyer warning “Syphilis Increasing” and an insert “HEALTH WARNING! Keep Children Out of Pools.”<sup>269</sup>

Even for white South Carolinians who supported reopening the parks, many advocated keeping swimming areas closed. One presumably white South Carolina couple wrote into the Arrants Committee requesting that “the parks be open, but the swimming area be closed.”<sup>270</sup> Another writer suggested that “...perhaps the parks could be kept open and operated as hunting and fishing preserves and all races could be prohibited to enter the waters either for the purposes of swimming or any other reason.”<sup>271</sup> Some of the attendees at the public hearings also echoed these sentiments, at least according to Arrants, who told *The State*: “The large majority of the state’s citizens who appeared before us would like to open the parks and cut out swimming and other mixed recreational activities.”<sup>272</sup>

In addition to seeking input from the general public, the Arrants Committee sought specific feedback from white legislators and local officials through a questionnaire that asked whether the respondent advocated keeping the parks open without restriction, open with limited facilities, or fully closed. They also asked whether the respondents anticipated a law enforcement problem if the parks

STATE PARK STUDY COMMITTEE - . . .								
	House of Representative		Senate		Mayor		Sheriff etc.	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No		
1. Would you anticipate a serious law enforcement problem if state parks were to be operated on a desegregated basis?	21	17	9	0	11	3	11	3
2. Would the law enforcement problem be lessened if:								
(a) Swimming were eliminated	39	8	8	2	15	0	10	3
(b) Cabin use were eliminated	24	9	5	2	13	0	7	3
3. In your opinion, do a majority of the citizens in your County favor:								
(a) Keeping the State Parks open	3	2	1	0	2	0	5	0
(1) For full desegregated operation	5	12	0	4	1	8	0	5
(2) For desegregated operation with limited facilities	24	6	3	2	8	4	7	2
(b) Closing the State Parks rather than desegregating them.	11	7	8	0	7	3	9	2

Figure D.5. Arrants Committee questionnaire on desegregating the state parks. Note the question about if law enforcement would be lessened if swimming was eliminated. Courtesy, South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

<sup>269</sup> Flyer from unknown sender, undated, Petitions to Close Parks, Questionnaires, Surveys, and Reference Files, South Carolina House of Representatives State Park (Desegregation) Study Committee Records.

<sup>270</sup> Letter from Mr. and Mrs. Richard Parnell, 20 September 1963, Folder “Against,” Petitions to Close Parks, Questionnaires, Surveys, and Reference Files, South Carolina House of Representatives State Park (Desegregation) Study Committee Records.

<sup>271</sup> Letter from Paul J. Knotts, September 10, 1963, Petitions to Close Parks, Questionnaires, Surveys, and Reference Files, South Carolina House of Representatives State Park (Desegregation) Study Committee Records.

<sup>272</sup> “Arrants Park Hearings Re-Open Today at York,” *The State*, 1 October 1963.



were opened and whether that problem would be lessened if either swimming were eliminated or cabin use were eliminated.<sup>273</sup> The responses were tabulated and can be seen in Figure D.5.

Most respondents advocated opening the parks with limited facilities, and most singled out integrated swimming areas as most objectionable, even more than cabins. It is likely that notions of unwelcome intimacy drove this response. Most white respondents did object to cabin use by both races, but in an integrated park, white and black visitors would not be residing in the same cabin at the same time. However, integrated swimming areas offered a space in which black and white bodies could occupy the same space at the same time, connected by water and dressed in swimsuits that revealed more of the body than every day clothes. Swimming, especially, suggested “dangerous” intimacy.

On June 1, 1964, the legislature and the Forestry Commission re-opened the state parks on a limited basis. Edisto State Park remained closed, but the twenty-five other parks re-opened. However, swimming was not allowed at any re-opened state park. In addition, camping was prohibited at Myrtle Beach State Park, and Santee State Park allowed only fishing and nature trails.<sup>274</sup> As a park with a swimming area, Sesquicentennial was among the parks affected by the swimming prohibition. At one time an actively used lake, the beachfront remained empty for nearly three years. It was not until 1966 that the state parks were fully reopened, including the swimming areas.<sup>275</sup> It was only one year later, in 1967, that the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism (SCDPRT) was created, with the South Carolina State Park Service as an important unit within the new agency. The SCDPRT and Park Service inherited a legacy of race-based exclusion and discrimination at their parks—a legacy that the Park Service has begun to acknowledge and interpret for purposes of public education.

## 7. Inventory of Extant Cultural Resources

**(a) Sesquicentennial Lake.** The lake is significant for understanding how the Civil Rights Movement came to the parks. It was one of the park’s main attractions and became a source of contention during the attempt to integrate the park. The lake was a primary concern in white resistance to integration because of the commonly held white view that black bodies and white bodies should not mix in the same water out of fear of “contamination” in such an intimate space. Use of any facilities related to the lake was off limits as well, such as diving platforms or bathrooms. Even when the parks re-opened in 1964, the lake at Sesquicentennial remained closed to swimmers until 1966.<sup>276</sup>

**(b) Lower Jackson Creek.** The creek, as physically connected to the lake, is significant for a similar connection with the Civil Rights Movement and white fears of water contamination and purity. The creek also connects the lake to the watershed and into the surrounding communities beyond park

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<sup>273</sup> State Park Study Committee Survey, Folder “Survey of Members of House, Senate, Mayors, Sheriffs,” Petitions to Close Parks, Questionnaires, Surveys, and Reference Files, South Carolina House of Representatives State Park (Desegregation) Study Committee Records.

<sup>274</sup> “State Parks to Re-Open,” *The State*, 14 May 1964.

<sup>275</sup> “All 26 SC State Parks Will Re-Open This Year,” *The State*, 22 June 1966.

<sup>276</sup> “All 26 SC State Parks Will Re-Open This Year,” *The State*, 22 June 1966.



bounds, signifying how park resources impacted the growing urban sprawl and the idea of the spreading of “contamination” from inside the park to nearby white communities.<sup>277</sup>

## 8. Inventory of Vanished Cultural Resources

**(a) Beachfront.** The former beachfront of Sesquicentennial Lake is now submerged. Before integration, it was a site of recreation and an idyllic spot for white bodies—and only white bodies—to gather. As seen in Figure D.3, it was clearly a popular destination. It was closely related to the fight for water space and park integration over the lake itself. Once African Americans gained access to the park and its beaches, attendance to the park and its lake fell. Today, the beach has been buried and has been replaced by grassy coast and paved walkways.

**(b) Front entrance.** The front entrance to the park on Two Notch Road is significant as site where a group of Allen and Benedict students led by Rev. I. DeQuincy Newman challenged the segregation of Sesquicentennial State Park in June 1961. They were resisted by the park’s superintendent and state police brandishing billy clubs.<sup>278</sup> The front entrance at Sesquicentennial State Park was both a physical barrier and an emblematic symbol of white resistance and black activism. The entrance has been changed and rearranged since 1961, with little extant from the historic entrance. However, the gate is still a significant example of the park’s history of exclusion.

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<sup>277</sup> C.H. Schaeffer to James Henry Hammond, 22 July 1948, Folder “Proposed Black Park in Columbia Area,” Series 162021 Construction and Maintenance Files: 1948-1966, State Commission of Forestry Records. Schaeffer writes that black swimming areas should not be created upstream from white swimming areas. See Section C for more on this topic.

<sup>278</sup> Koele and Martin, “Civil Rights at Sesquicentennial State Park.”

## E. Management of the South Carolina State Park Service, 1967 – present

### 1. Overview

Since 1967 the South Carolina State Park Service has aimed to interpret the natural and cultural history of Sesquicentennial State Park. Administrators sought to encourage tourism to the park on a national scale as well as place the park in conversation with stories of national history. In the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century these efforts were guided by superlative claims, attractions brought to the park, festivals, partnerships with community organizations, and commercial ties. This programming offers varying perceptions of women through community involvement and pageants. As an integrated park, Sesquicentennial State Park also aimed to attract African American visitors. Into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, much of the park's historical programming was scaled back until the recent reinterpretations of civil rights in the park. The park also consolidated efforts in preserving longleaf pine—without the ability to undertake necessary controlled burns due to the park's proximity to growing metropolis of Columbia. During this time, the boundaries of the park fluctuated as land was sold, traded, and acquired, and these changes attracted local attention. Much can be understood about this period through administrative decisions and visitor experiences within the park.

### 2. Ideology

Internal memos and letters from park service administrators reveal a plan to use facilities and programming to teach history at Sesquicentennial State Park. Park interpretation looked to celebrate an historical past centered on colonial life and the Revolutionary War. Ideologically, this satisfied efforts to demonstrate unity instead of facing more recent topics such as the Civil Rights Movement and the newly integrated park. These efforts align with historical interpretations celebrating the uniqueness of the South without acknowledging topics such as slavery, Confederate defeat, and racism. Sesquicentennial State Park was then effectively used as a vehicle to celebrate histories of South Carolina that were not exposed to racial conflict. Administrative actions rooted in objectives to connect the area's history to national historical narratives were reexamined and reinterpreted in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The construction of an amphitheater serving as theatre space for dramatic programming put into motion a pattern of interpreting cultural history in the park. In April of 1968, the construction of the amphitheater was completed on the grounds.<sup>279</sup> Two months later, *The Liberty Tree*, a play dramatizing the events of the Revolutionary War, began its first run of performances in the new structure.<sup>280</sup> Although Revolutionary War battles did not occur anywhere near the present park, dramatizing the Revolutionary War in its programming served to celebrate South Carolina in the event that defined the nation. The play featured Francis Marion and highlighted the role of South Carolina in the Revolutionary War. The play ran in the summers of 1968 and 1969. Plays tied to Revolutionary War history were

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<sup>279</sup> Sesquicentennial State Park Timber Survey, manuscript in the office files of the Resource Management Office, South Carolina State Park Service, Columbia.

<sup>280</sup> John Hammond Moore, *Columbia and Richland County: A South Carolina Community, 1740-1990*, (Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 1993), 445.

occurring in state parks around the South including Virginia and Texas in this post-integration time period.<sup>281</sup> These plays were advertised within *The Liberty Tree* pamphlet indicating this trend, but also demonstrating that state parks were using entertainment such as plays to attract tourists.<sup>282</sup>

In May of 1969, the Log House was moved to the park grounds from 3325 River Drive in Columbia. It was used to add to the construction of a built environment used to communicate history. According to a dendrochronology report by Wade Bateson, University of South Carolina professor of biology, the house dated to 1756, earning it the title of “the oldest house in Richland County.”<sup>283</sup> Records documenting the history of the house were not available due to the “recent unpleasantness (1865).”<sup>284</sup> The house was disassembled from its original location at 3325 River Drive and reassembled on the park grounds.<sup>285</sup> Janson Cox, the first museum professional to work for the Park Service, held various titles from 1969 to 1972 including: “Chief Curator of Historical Interpretation and Museums,” “Assistant to the Director of History and Historic Interpretation,” and “Chief Historian.”<sup>286</sup> Cox engaged in considerable research about the reconstruction of the house and was in contact with historians, Foxfire—a long-standing magazine with articles written about southern Appalachia, the Massachusetts Historical Commission, and the New York Historical Association in order to restore the cabin as accurately as possible.<sup>287</sup> In 1970, Janson Cox stated

It has never been intended, from my personal understanding, for this building to be used as a ‘period’ restoration. (This is not to infer that the building has not been restored properly. All architectural details have been executed to the best of our knowledge; therefore, architecturally the building is a standing

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<sup>281</sup> Advertisements for other plays dramatizing the Revolutionary War were printed in playbills for *The Liberty Tree*. See the 1968 playbill for *The Liberty Tree* in the office files of the Resource Management Offices, South Carolina State Park Service.

<sup>282</sup> *The Liberty Tree* pamphlet, 1968. Manuscript in the office files of the Resource Management Offices, South Carolina State Park Service.

<sup>283</sup> Sesquicentennial State Park Timber Survey.

<sup>284</sup> This parenthetical addition to Cox’s letter to Per Guldbeck of the New York State Historical Association is a reference to “the burning of Columbia” by Sherman’s troops in February of 1865. Despite being written 103 years after the fact, the loss of records and documents in the tragedy was still present in the minds of Columbians. Janson Cox, letter to Per Guldbeck, 24 October 1968, Log House Correspondence Files, Resource Management Offices, South Carolina State Park Service.

<sup>285</sup> Frank L. Young, letter to the directors, sponsors, and visitors of the Sesquicentennial State Park, 21 May 1970, Sesquicentennial Log House Files, Resource Management Offices, South Carolina State Park Service.

<sup>286</sup> In a 1969 letter to B. Eliot Wigginton of Foxfire, Cox notes his title as “Chief Curator of Historical Interpretation and Museums.” In 1970, Cox signs letters to Roland C. Young (an agent at State Farm Insurance Company) and Dr. Richard W. Hale of the Massachusetts Historical Commission as “Janson L. Cox, Assistant to the Director of History and Historic Interpretation.” In 1972, in another letter to Wigginton, Cox signs closes his letter as “Chief Historian.” Log House Correspondence Files.

<sup>287</sup> Cox to Guldbeck, 24 October 1968; Per Guldbeck, letter to Janson Cox, 4 November 1969, Log House Correspondence Files; B. Eliot Wigginton, letter to Janson Cox, 2 June 1969, Log House Correspondence Files; Janson Cox, letter to B. Eliot Wigginton, 3 July 1969, Log House Correspondence Files; B. Eliot Wigginton, letter to Janson Cox, 7 July 1969, Log House Correspondence Files; Richard W. Hale, letter to Janson Cox, 30 January 1970, Log House Correspondence Files; Janson Cox, letter to Dr. Richard W. Hale, 18 March 1970, Log House Correspondence Files; Janson Cox, letter to Roland C. Young, 2 June 1970, Log House Correspondence Files; Janson Cox, letter to B. Eliot Wigginton, 6 April 6 1972, Log House Correspondence Files.

example of an 18<sup>th</sup> century German log house built in central South Carolina. Consequently, my recommendation is that the building be used as a 'Gift Shop'.<sup>288</sup>

Janson Cox's language described the tension inherent in the historical interpretation at the park—the landscape was to suggest an historical experience, but not involve complete historical immersion. The park was not advertised as a historic site, or as a place which spoke to a specific period or event. Viewing an historical play or buying a gift in a 18<sup>th</sup> century log house invited visitors to engage with historical interpretation during their escape to the urban park. Despite its continued use as a gift shop after the run of *The Liberty Tree*, employees of the Log House Gift Shop were reminded that "...the primary function of the Log House is to interpret early construction techniques and the early pioneer way of life in South Carolina."<sup>289</sup> Programming, décor, and items for sale at the shop emphasized colonial frontier life as imagined by the administrators of the park.<sup>290</sup> The interpretation of Sesquicentennial State Park as enacted by the State Park Service has never been exclusively natural: human history has been

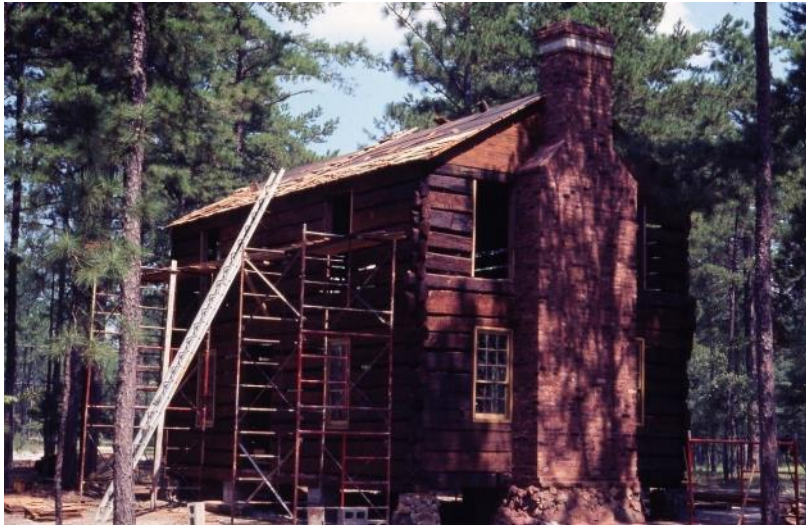


Figure E.1. *The Log House During the Reconstruction Process, c. 1970.* In a scrapbook created for the Park Service about the reconstruction of the Log House, it is noted that the white stripe is a decorative touch. However, the popularized patriotic narrative contributed to the story of the cabin for visitors. Courtesy, Open Parks Network.

incorporated into the park narrative from the beginning of the administrative control of the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism.

The Log House's existence spanned through the Revolutionary War, pioneer life, and the Civil War, making it pivotal in park interpretation. The connection of the structure with the Revolutionary War was described thusly: "[The] Chimney with the white band said by many to indicate the house was occupied by Tory during the American Revolution."<sup>291</sup> In this description, the South Carolinians living in the Log House

experienced oppression at the hands of the British due to the forcible occupation of their home by Tories. This constructed historical memory, rooted in a white stripe of truth, places the South Carolinians on the "right side of history" as implicit patriots.

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<sup>288</sup> Janson L. Cox, memo to Donald M. McSween, 16 March 1970, Log House Correspondence Files.

<sup>289</sup> Roger Alderman, memo to Joe Watson, Ila Meadors, and Dottie Krajcik, 14 November 1972, Log House Correspondence Files.

<sup>290</sup> Sesquicentennial Log House Inventory Sheet, 16 February 1977, Log House Inventory Files, Resource Management Offices, South Carolina State Park Service.

<sup>291</sup> Log Cabin Scrapbook. Manuscript in the office files of the Resource Management Offices, South Carolina State Park Service, Columbia.

The story of the Log House again redeems South Carolinians in a write-up about the park detailing the Log House's resident ghost published in *Southern Living* magazine.<sup>292</sup> The ghost, that of a Union soldier, was housed by the residents of the Log House: "when the soldier died, the family buried his blue coat under the hearth to protect themselves from unsympathetic neighbors. The coat was found when the house was moved to Sesquicentennial."<sup>293</sup> The Log House, representing South Carolinians of the pioneer past, redeemed those people as Southerners who acted in the best interest of the nation. The Log House's history is then spared from traitorous interpretations of the South, Confederate defeat, slavery, and racism. The role of the Log House served to exemplify a national history that could be interpreted by the park without addressing the dark and violent past.

Sesquicentennial State Park continued to interpret history through programming and archaeological inquiries in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In 1975, two archaeological sites were recorded at Sesquicentennial State Park.<sup>294</sup> Each site lists a "single component listed as 'unknown prehistoric'; the site forms do not include a listing of artifacts recovered that may have been collected from either site."<sup>295</sup> In addition to these two sites, lithic flakes found at locations in the park have suggested archaeological evidence of inhabitation of Indigenous peoples in the land now recognized as Sesquicentennial State Park. Interest in interpreting the history of Indigenous people on the land is demonstrated by an undated interpretive booklet which notes that fruits found in "plum thickets" are commonly known as "Chickasaw plums."<sup>296</sup> "How odd," the booklet notes, "that the fruit should be called 'Chickasaw' in Cherokee territory!"<sup>297</sup> Events such as the Annual Archeology Festival held from 1987 into the early 2000s further demonstrate interest in national historic programming. These annual events included lantern tours, battle reenactments from the French and Indian War, discussion of prehistoric sites, colonial cooking, pottery demonstrations, and Spanish explorers.<sup>298</sup> Although these historical events would not have taken place in the park, they embrace colonial and pioneer life from a national lens. Administrators wanted to offer educational programming that appealed to national framework. These efforts demonstrate an attempt to present a constructed idea of history that streamlines national and state unity largely through the lens of colonial history.

The South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism created interpretative measures to incorporate civil rights history into Sesquicentennial State Park. This included a partnership with the University of South Carolina Public History Program through the Capital City Field School, which led to the authorship of a public history report about challenges to segregation at the gates of the park

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<sup>292</sup> "Exclusive," *Southern Living* [Birmingham, AL], n.d. Manuscript in the office files of the Resource Management Office, South Carolina State Park Service, Columbia.

<sup>293</sup> "Exclusive," *Southern Living*, n.d.

<sup>294</sup> David Jones, Archaeologist for South Carolina State Parks, e-mail to Hannah Patton and Kira Lyle, 7 February 2019.

<sup>295</sup> Jones e-mail to Patton and Lyle, 7 February 2019.

<sup>296</sup> "Sandhills Self-Interpretive Nature Trail," Folder 957-46, State Park Office Files, Resource Management Office, South Carolina State Park Service, Columbia.

<sup>297</sup> "Sandhills Self-Interpretive Nature Trail."

<sup>298</sup> Dawn Hinshaw, "Park Takes Visitors on Historical 'Tour Through Time' Tonight," *The State* [Columbia, SC], 1 October 1999.

during the Civil Rights Movement.<sup>299</sup> As a result of this plan a wayside was placed by the lake to commemorate civil rights efforts to integrate the park.<sup>300</sup>

### 3. Visitor Facilities and Programming

Under the stewardship of the South Carolina State Park Service, the park continued to be managed as a site of leisure and recreation. Over time, the park became a location for outdoor drama and historical immersion. Beyond encouraging visitors to explore the natural environment by hiking and boating, the administrators of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism added to the built environment of Sesquicentennial State Park to construct novel experiences. These new opportunities in programming and facilities reflected the vision of the administration of the park service.

From its inception as a park, those with power to shape the park land demonstrated an interest in infusing the physical landscape with elements and stories of the past.<sup>301</sup> In 1968, shortly after South Carolina State Parks assumed management of Sesquicentennial, a massive amphitheater was constructed as a venue for hosting an historical outdoor drama, *The Liberty Tree*. Construction of the enormous concrete



Figure E.2. *Sesquicentennial Amphitheatre During Performance, 1969*. Pictured above is the audience of a performance in the amphitheater in the late 60s. Though the seating is at almost full capacity in the image above, attendance of amphitheater performances would wane as the amphitheater aged. In many ways, the decision to break ground on the amphitheater was the first ostentatious change to the park made by the Park Service. Though seemingly novel, this desire to provide a setting to shape a narrative of South Carolina history hearkens back to the original founding of the park. Courtesy, Open Parks Network.

amphitheater on the park land was initiated by interest from the Springdale Women's Club in organizing an "outdoor drama" about the role of South Carolinians in the American Revolution.<sup>302</sup> This "Revolutionary" idea aligned perfectly with the change in management of Sesquicentennial State Park.

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<sup>299</sup> Elizabeth Koele and Emily Martin, Public History Program, University of South Carolina, *Civil Rights at Sesquicentennial State Park: A History and Preservation Plan for the Entrance of Sesquicentennial State Park in Columbia, SC* (Report prepared for the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, 2017).

<sup>300</sup> Koele and Martin, *Civil Rights at Sesquicentennial State Park*.

<sup>301</sup> For more information on the founding of the park and the celebrations that infused South Carolina history into the opening festivities, see B: The Sesquicentennial and the Creation of a Segregated Park, 1935-1941.

<sup>302</sup> *The Liberty Tree* pamphlet, Resource Management Offices, South Carolina State Park Service.



The newly formed Park Service partnered with the Palmetto Outdoor Historical Drama Association (POHDA) and offered the park land as a location for an amphitheater to house the play.<sup>303</sup>

Interest in *The Liberty Tree* waned after the first two years of its run. In the 1970s, the amphitheater continued to be an important site for programming and revenue. Productions of “The Music Man” and “Annie Get Your Gun” were put on in the amphitheater in the 1970s, offering visitors inclined toward the dramatic an opportunity to see well-known productions. As programming in the amphitheater continued, administrators became aware of issues raised by visitors, such as hot weather, and more systemic problems, most notably a shortage of corporate backing.<sup>304</sup> In 1970, the amphitheater was leased to the University of South Carolina from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism.<sup>305</sup> This decision fostered both community ties and lessened economic burdens of park administration. The lease agreement notes that the University would be responsible for programming in the amphitheater and associated maintenance and would not compete with sales of the gift shop located in the Log House.<sup>306</sup> This partnership between the University and the Park Service lasted for years. In 1973, H. Zane Knauss of the University wrote to Robert L. Gunter, the Director of Administration and Personnel of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism to discuss plans for spring programs to take place in the amphitheater put on by students in the music and theatre departments and the concert choir.<sup>307</sup> The amphitheater was constructed to fit the vision of historical programming in the park; however, beyond this function, it remained true to the park’s administrative vision. Beyond historical programming, the amphitheater began and continued its life as a vehicle for community partnerships.

The predilection of Sesquicentennial State Park’s administrators to expand beyond the “natural” environment to entertain visitors was expanded with the addition of the replica of the *Best Friend of Charleston*, the “first passenger train” in the United States to the park.<sup>308</sup> Although this is a complicated assertion, it points to administrative decisions in creating superlative historical claims to promote tourism at the park. The historical value of the train was emphasized in a public awards ceremony. Dolph Overton, “the owner of the former ‘Wings and Wheels Museum,’” and his wife received a state

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<sup>303</sup> *The Liberty Tree* pamphlet, Resource Management Offices, South Carolina State Park Service.

<sup>304</sup> William W. Starr, “A Picture Postcard View of Columbia,” *The State*, 24 September 1997.

<sup>305</sup> Lease Agreement between the University of South Carolina and the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, 1970, Sesquicentennial State Park Files, Resource Management Offices, South Carolina State Park Service.

<sup>306</sup> Lease Agreement between the University of South Carolina and the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, Sesquicentennial State Park Files.

<sup>307</sup> Zane Knauss, letter to Robert L. Gunter, 3 April 1973, Resource Management Offices, South Carolina State Park Service.

<sup>308</sup> The Best Friend of Charleston was deemed the “first passenger train” in the United States by the Best Friend of Charleston Museum in Charleston, South Carolina. The website for the museum notes that the Best Friend was the “first steam locomotive in the US to establish regularly scheduled passenger service.” This also did not deter the publication of this information about Sesquicentennial’s *Best Friend* replica which titled the locomotive as the “first passenger train” in the country. However, the replica was not used for carrying passengers. For more information about the general history of the Best Friend train, including the boiler explosion which ended its run, see [www.bestfriendofcharleston.org](http://www.bestfriendofcharleston.org).



tourism award for donating the *Best Friend* to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism.<sup>309</sup> In 1978 a shelter was constructed to house the train for visitors to see.<sup>310</sup> George T. Gordon, former manager of Sesquicentennial State Park, noted that “park visitors came from all over to see this amazing train and enjoyed seeing it...it was a major attraction at the park.”<sup>311</sup> The *Best Friend* was an addition to the landscape which furthered the vision of the park as a “festival park”: a space for community members to engage in exciting and unique experiences. The administrative vision for the train was for it to exist as rideable transportation around the lake. Fred Brinkman noted in 1980 that the “desired preference is a running train offering rides for the public.”<sup>312</sup> However, this vision was never fully



Figure E.3. “*Best Friend*” Train Article, 1987. In a newspaper article entitled “No Rails for Best Friend,” difficulties in acquiring funding are blamed for the inability to create a train ride in Sesquicentennial State Park. Public disappointment is seen in the change of plans for the replica train in the article. Courtesy, Resource Management Office, South Carolina State Park Service, Columbia.

realized as the train was moved by the South Carolina Army National Guard in 1987 to the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia.<sup>313</sup> Publicly, funding concerns were blamed for an inability to build tracks around the lake for the *Best Friend* to chug along.<sup>314</sup> However, internally it was understood that the track was not a feasible option as it would require cutting down too many of the trees around Sesquicentennial Lake.<sup>315</sup> Despite desire for a train ride for visitors, park officials decided that the natural resources the park were not to be sacrificed in order to create this attraction.

The replica train was one of the most advertised exhibits of the new museum. The train, though removed from the park, continued to draw tourists. In 1981 the former shelter was renovated to be used as storage, the park office, and an interpretative center. In 2015 the interpretative element of this facility was changed to a retail space.<sup>316</sup>

<sup>309</sup> “Gifts to the People of South Carolina from Dolph Overton,” *Park Lites*, Sesquicentennial State Park Files.

<sup>310</sup> ‘Best Friend’ Shelter Photograph, Box 1, Series 112021 Files, Specifications, and Architectural Drawings of the State Engineer for Construction and Renovation of State Buildings, 1920-1996, State Budget and Control Board Records, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia.

<sup>311</sup> George T. Gordon, Retired State Park Manager, e-mail interview with Carlie Todd, 26 March 2019.

<sup>312</sup> Fred Brinkman, memo to members of the directorate staff and all division directors, 11 July 1980, State Park Office Files.

<sup>313</sup> ‘Best Friend’ Train Transfer Agreement, 10 March 1987, Records of Transfer Agreements, South Carolina State Museum, Columbia.

<sup>314</sup> Dana Sawyer, “No Rails for Best Friend,” *Richland Northeast* [Columbia, SC], 4 March 1981.

<sup>315</sup> Gordon, e-mail interview with Todd, 26 March 2019.

<sup>316</sup> South Carolina State Park Service, *Draft Sesquicentennial State Park General Management Plan*, (Columbia: South Carolina State Park Service, 2018), 4.

Parallel to the creation of a “festival park,” Sesquicentennial continued to operate as a “traditional” nature park, with the amenities to match. The park boasted camping sites as well as the possibility for aquatic activities and rentals on the lake. When administrative responsibilities for the park were relegated to the Park Service, the vision of the park shifted to constructing a space which incorporated human history through structures and programming onto the natural landscape. As an urban escape for South Carolinians seeking leisure, opportunities for educational and dramatic programming were offered by behind-the-scenes administrative decisions.

#### 4. Promoting Tourism

The Log House represents one aspect of the administrative decision to incorporate their vision for state cultural history—pioneer life, the Revolutionary War, and 19<sup>th</sup>-century technology and transportation—into the natural landscape of the park. Visitors are invited to see superlative structures such as the “oldest Log House in Richland county” and the “first passenger train in the U.S.” These experiences are enhanced with touristic amenities like the gift shop. The superlative language used by the park administration to describe their amenities advertised the park structures as those which had to be seen and experienced in the park. These structures and buildings were also posed as objects with histories and meanings beyond the county.

**(a) Use of Park Facilities to Promote Tourism.** The Log House became a draw for visitors from the moment that it was dedicated at the park, and removal of “the oldest house in Richland county” to the park was publicized in newspapers across the state and beyond.<sup>317</sup> Prior to its move, the Log House at Sesquicentennial State Park was an unassuming home located 3225 River Road in Columbia. In the midst of a construction project in 1961, workers noted that the log construction under the siding of the home looked quite old. Preservation-minded citizens Mr. and Mrs. Jack Odom, in cooperation with the Women’s Club of Columbia, had the building moved to the park.<sup>318</sup>

The dedication ceremony was open to the public and visitors were invited to attend the celebration, complete with refreshments served by hostesses in period costumes.<sup>319</sup> After the restored Log House was established in the park, its lore was presented in a national publication to encourage wider visitorship. The Log House’s resident ghost, “that of a Union soldier who was wounded and taken in by the family who lived in the house in 1865,” was written about in an issue of *Southern Living* magazine.<sup>320</sup> This Civil War ghost story, the author notes, was serendipitously proven when the Log House was moved to Sesquicentennial when the soldier’s coat (in Union blue) was discovered under the hearth. The soldier sheltered by Southern sympathizers to the Unions’ cause encouraged visitation to

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<sup>317</sup> News of the Log House was published in the following newspapers: “S.C. Park Has 1756 Log Cabin,” *Long Island Press* [Jamaica, NY], 23 August 1970; “Oldest Log House To Be Dedicated,” *The State*, 21 November 1970; “Woman’s Club Gives Restored Log House To South Carolinians,” *Columbia Record* [Columbia, SC], 20 November 1970.

<sup>318</sup> Russell Maxey, *South Carolina’s Historic Columbia, Yesterday and Today in Photographs*, (Columbia, SC: R.L. Bryan Co., 1980), 11.

<sup>319</sup> “Woman’s Club Gives Restored Log House to South Carolinians,” *Columbia Record*, 20 November 1970.

<sup>320</sup> “Exclusive,” *Southern Living*, n.d.

the park and its Log House, an “excellent example of the log house of South Carolina pioneers.”<sup>321</sup> The article ends by noting for readers the exact location of the park and inviting them to enjoy its excellent camping facilities.

The Log House served not only as a draw for tourists, but as a traditional tourism amenity: a gift shop. In a 1970 memo from Janson Cox to Donald M. McSween explained his desire for the Log House:

...my recommendation is that the building be used as a ‘Gift Shop.’ The following is my thinking about the type of operation ideally suited to this structure. From the beginning the shop will reflect the image of the building and the merchandise will reflect the heritage of the house... The shop will reflect the 18<sup>th</sup> century historical period by carrying only reproductions, not antiques. The underlying objective is to develop the taste of the purchasers along these 18<sup>th</sup> century lines...Visitors should be able to purchase and to take home a memento of their visit.<sup>322</sup>

The use of the gift shop by the Park Service was not only to provide tourists with an opportunity to purchase an historically minded trinket. As the first museologist hired by the Park Service, the drive for a gift shop reflected Cox’s desire to professionalize the management of a gift shop on the premises.<sup>323</sup> Don McSween also recommended that supplies for campers be sold out of the Log House, encouraging visitors to have varied and extended interactions with the park grounds, from a day trip to an overnight adventure.<sup>324</sup>

Following the decline of dramas in the park, which ended Log House use as a gift shop, the building was repurposed as an art studio in the 1970s. This was effective in regaining revenue and visitorship without the programming surrounding dramas. In 1977, John Madcharo, the artist in residence at the Log House, had also leased the amphitheater, “adjacent covered meeting area, and grounds” and rented the space to community organizations.<sup>325</sup> Madcharo used the Log House as his personal art studio and planned to “make space available for outdoor art shows by visual arts and crafts groups.”<sup>326</sup> Another artist, Campbell Frost, hosted art classes in the structure as well. This was very popular among visitors, including a group of 55 local artists who referred to themselves as the “Log Cabin Art Guild,” membership in which included paid dues. They held an annual art festival spatially centered around the Log Cabin on and off throughout the 1980s and 1990s, charging admission to view the art and participate in addition to selling their art.<sup>327</sup>

**(b) Promoting Tourism Through the Media.** The Park Service realized the importance of communicating park amenities to promote tourism. Festivals such as the ones hosted by the “Log Cabin Art Guild” garnered media attention, but the park also sought media outlets nationally and regionally to advertise events. This content not only offered historical interpretations of the park, but also events like pageants.

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<sup>321</sup> “Exclusive,” *Southern Living*, n.d.

<sup>322</sup> Janson Cox, memo to Donald M. McSween, 1970, State Park Office Files.

<sup>323</sup> Al Hester, Historic Sites Coordinator, e-mail to Kira Lyle, 12 April 2019.

<sup>324</sup> Don McSween, memo to Bob Hickman, 28 April 1969, Log House Correspondence Files.

<sup>325</sup> “Sesqui State Park Facilities Available,” *Artifacts* 2, no. 3 (March 1977).

<sup>326</sup> “Sesqui State Park Facilities Available.”

<sup>327</sup> Amanda Mays, “Log Cabin Guild Will Bring Art to Sesquicentennial Park,” *The State*, 4 November 1999.

The article in *Southern Living* magazine and the numerous newspaper articles are one aspect of the utilization of print media to publicize the uniqueness of Sesquicentennial State Park. Radio and television coverage were also employed by park officials in an effort to engage in public outreach. In a memo about radio coverage of the park on WIS radio, the State Park Service gave a list of facts to be read on air about the Log House. The three main components to be emphasized were “the ghost, military apparel under hearth, built by German pioneers.”<sup>328</sup> These three components boiled down the historical interpretation into palatable, interesting factoids. The three facts chosen corresponded to involvement of South Carolinians in national events and a welcome embrace of the colonial past as a call to true Southern identity. Television coverage of the Christmas activities at the park in 1972 encouraged visitors to come to see the festivities and take part in “the spirit of Christmas in frontier South Carolina.”<sup>329</sup> Even in advertising for the holiday programming, the park was using historical interpretations of pioneer life to romanticize the past and pique public interest. The public was positively engaged with historical programming at the park.

Although created for a local anniversary in 1936, in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, the Park Service sought to use Sesquicentennial as a location for state programming such as pageants. The aesthetic appeal of the park was not reserved to the natural surroundings. Local women were given the title of “Miss South Carolina State Parks” and their physical beauty was used to encourage publicity. Talking about the various Miss South Carolina State Parks winners, Donald M. McSween noted in a 1971 memo to Bob Hickman that “while we have had somewhat varied experiences with the three chosen,” each of the winners

“has been photogenetic and her being named and crowned- along with whatever subsequent function she has participated in- has been a vehicle through which our department has attracted considerable news coverage.”<sup>330</sup> Mary Lou Harris, 1969 Miss South Carolina State Parks, was featured on a postcard for the park. The inscription on the reverse of the postcard reads: “Riding the pedal boats at Sesquicentennial State Park is fun, indeed, when you are in attractive company.”<sup>331</sup> The physical beauty of the young woman is used to emphasize park amenities and to associate the beauty of the woman



Figure E.4. *Mary Lou Harris and Pearce Thompson Postcard, 1969.* Miss South Carolina State Parks, Mary Lou Harris, is pictured with the superintendent of the park. The physical beauty of the scenic lake scene is equated to Harris’ “attractiveness.” Courtesy, Resource Management Office, South Carolina State Park Service, Columbia.

<sup>328</sup> Roger D. Alderman, letter to Gene McKay, 1 December 1972, State Park Office Files.

<sup>329</sup> Roger D. Alderman, memo to all PRT personnel, 11 December 1972, State Park Office Files.

<sup>330</sup> Donald M. McSween, memo to Bob Hickman, 20 January 1971, State Park Office Files.

<sup>331</sup> Mary Lou Harris and Pearce Thompson Postcard, 1969, Miss South Carolina State Parks Files, Resource Management Offices, South Carolina State Park Service.

with the natural beauty of the park. The text on the postcard goes on to note the park's amenities: "The large lake is stocked with swans, Canadian geese and several species of ducks. Camping is also a popular attraction at the beautiful park."<sup>332</sup>

The structures and landscape of the park were used to offer historical and natural fun for the family. Sesquicentennial State Park officials and the State Park Service sought to gain visitorship through organized events such as plays, festivals, and pageants to create urgency to visit the park and be a part of the culture within it. This required continued communication and public outreach in the state and throughout the South, as well as reliable programming.

## 5. Race

After the South Carolina State Parks were integrated in 1966, visitorship to the parks in general increased by over one million people the following year.<sup>333</sup> Despite integration, many African Americans perceived South Carolina state parks to still be spaces for whites exclusively.<sup>334</sup> Sesquicentennial State Park was no exception. Consequently, park officials made various attempts to reach out to local African Americans in the Columbia community to visit the park. A Racial Unity Festival was held in the summer of 1988 by the Baha'i Community of metropolitan Columbia.<sup>335</sup> While not increasing racial diversity at the park themselves, their presence at Sesquicentennial State Park marks an interesting dynamic to both the time-period and race relations in South Carolina.

**(a) African American Visitors.** While statistics on African American visitorship to Sesquicentennial State Park is limited, there is evidence of some notable African American visitors following integration.<sup>336</sup> Soul singer and celebrity, James Brown, visited Sesquicentennial State Park during the 1970s and was awarded the key to the city of Columbia in May of 1968.<sup>337</sup> Being a native of Barnwell, South Carolina, Brown had a strong relationship with the state as well as the Columbia community. Brown visited

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<sup>332</sup> Mary Lou Harris and Pearce Thompson Postcard, 1969.

<sup>333</sup> It is unclear whether integration led to this significant increase in more visitors to South Carolina State Parks, but it is likely that through integration, people of color did start visiting South Carolina State Parks increasingly. This is an area of future research.

<sup>334</sup> "Blacks Encouraged to Use State Parks," unattributed and undated photocopy of newspaper, Miss South Carolina State Parks Files.

<sup>335</sup> Bill Higgins, "Columbia Native Author of Book About Holocaust," *The State*, 11 June 1988.

<sup>336</sup> Visitor statistics of African Americans visiting Sesquicentennial State Park would add exponentially to this research. However, Sesquicentennial State Park visitor statistics have not been found in our research. African American visitation at Sesquicentennial State Park is an area for future research.

<sup>337</sup> It is unknown how many times James Brown visited Sesquicentennial State Park during the 1970s and the specific dates of his visit(s) were not identified in the course of the research process.



Figure E.5. *James Brown Photo, c. 1970s. "Godfather of Soul" James Brown with segregationist South Carolina Senator Strom Thurmond and his wife Nancy Moore. Courtesy, Resource Management Office, South Carolina State Park Service, Columbia, South Carolina.*

Sesquicentennial State Park along with South Carolina United States Senator Strom Thurmond and his wife Nancy Moore.

Both Thurmond and Brown were friends throughout their lives. Brown was present at Thurmond's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and he sang "Happy Birthday" to him.<sup>338</sup> Given Thurmond's background as a segregationist and Brown's music encouraging black empowerment, the dynamic relationship between these individuals is fascinating to say the least. The symbolic implications of these individuals meeting at Sesquicentennial State Park should also be discussed. Brown, an African American male, would not have been permitted to visit Sesquicentennial prior to integration in 1966. Segregationists, like Strom Thurmond, would have opposed integration and supported the racial segregation of public spaces like Sesquicentennial State Park. It is only after integration of the South Carolina State Park Service that the presence of both Brown and

Thurmond at the park could have taken place. The symbolic presence of both these individuals at the park and what they broadly represent only further reflects the dynamic transitional period in social relations in the South and how these relations were experienced in public spaces.

**(b) African American Staffing.** Prior to creation of the South Carolina State Park Service, African Americans worked at Sesquicentennial State Park in various staff positions. Isom Roberts was one of these staff members who worked at the park from 1942 to 1945.<sup>339</sup> Research has not produced a finite result of the number African American employees throughout Sesquicentennial State Park's existence. What is evident is that African Americans have been in positions ranging from park technician to assistant ranger to senior ranger at the park. As far as the research has indicated, there have been no African American Park Managers in Sesquicentennial State Park's history.<sup>340</sup>

<sup>338</sup> "James Brown Sings 'Happy Birthday' to Strom Thurmond," *C-Span*, 9 March 1993.

<sup>339</sup> For more information on Isom Roberts, see C: The Management of the South Carolina State Commission of Forestry, 1940-1967.

<sup>340</sup> Stacey Jensen, Sesquicentennial State Park interpreter, e-mail interview with Carlie Todd, 26 March 2019.



## 6. Gender

Gender within the park during this period offers a stratified picture of women's roles. While the female body was being used for advertising the park, women's organizations were also using the park as a

space for hosting events and achieving organizational goals. Moreover, women had become an integral part of the park's staff, holding positions such as park rangers or park managers.



Figure E.6. *Sun-News* Article about Mary Lou Harris, 1969. Mary Lou Harris is pictured in the above article with Sesquicentennial park ranger James Meadors. Photographs of Mary Lou and other Miss South Carolina State Parks were used as publicity for South Carolina State Parks. Courtesy, Resource Management Office, South Carolina State Park Service, Columbia.

**(a) Miss South Carolina State Parks.** To help increase publicity of the state parks, in 1968 the South Carolina State Park Service began choosing young women from universities and colleges throughout the state to annually serve as Miss South Carolina State Parks. The primary duties of these women were to reach out to local communities to foster involvement with state parks and help spread awareness of wildfires. They also were expected to attend various functions that the South Carolina State Park Service hosted, including drawings for free cabin reservations for families. The first holder of the "Miss South Carolina State Parks" title was Cheryl Folk from Clemson University in 1968. Mary Lou Harris from the University of South Carolina received the title in 1969, being described as a "blond, blue-eyed" sophomore who considered "camping as one of her favorite activities" (see Figure E.6).<sup>341</sup>

While most Miss South Carolina State Parks were young white women from historically white universities, there were two African American women chosen for the position. In 1972, the first African American woman crowned as Miss South Carolina State Parks was a junior from South Carolina State College, Abigail Brown, who was described as being "intelligent, debonair, very attractive" with the "essence of femininity" (see Figure E.7).<sup>342</sup> It is unknown whether the South Carolina State Park Service chose Brown as a means of encouraging African American South Carolinians to visit the state's parks, but it was clear that Brown's main goal as Miss South Carolina State Parks was to encourage greater use of park facilities by African Americans. Brown stated that "most blacks still perceived the parks as white

<sup>341</sup> "Blue-Eyed USC Sophomore is Named Miss State Parks," *Sun-News* [Myrtle Beach, SC], 16 March 1969.

<sup>342</sup> "The Crowning of Miss South Carolina State 72" Pamphlet, 8 September 1972, Miss South Carolina State Parks Files.





Figure E.7. Abigail Brown with “Smokey the Bear,” 1972. In a newspaper article, Brown noted that she enjoyed relaxing at Edisto State Park. Both Edisto and Sesquicentennial State Park were key locations for civil rights protesters that previously sought entrance to segregated parks. Courtesy, Resource Management Office, South Carolina State Park Service, Columbia.

territory.”<sup>343</sup> She also noted that low visitorship of African Americans to South Carolina state parks was due to a “lack of accessibility to or availability of park sites to low income areas; expense of transportation to such areas, and user fees.”<sup>344</sup> The second African American Miss South Carolina State Parks was Eva Armstrong from Benedict College in 1978. The program lasted until 1980, and it is unclear why it ended.<sup>345</sup>

**(b) Female Visitor Involvement.** Various female visitors and clubs were involved with Sesquicentennial State Park. The Springdale Women’s Club assisted in the creation of *The Liberty Tree* theatrical performance, which was based around the Revolutionary War. In 1969, in cooperation with the Women’s Club of Columbia, the Log House was moved from 3225 River Drive to Sesquicentennial State Park. Women in the larger Columbia area were using the park as a space for their organization to plan events that advanced their goals and interests.

**(c) Female Park Staff.** The inclusion of women as visitors and staff at Sesquicentennial State Park has been continuous throughout most of the park’s history, especially after the 1960s. While female staff in administrative and park ranger roles have been constant, there have been very few female park managers at Sesquicentennial State Park. The only female park

manager identified is Susan Spell who became the park manager during the 2000s. The current park interpreter is Stacey Jensen, who is responsible for assisting in the development, promotion, and presentation of programs and positive and meaningful engagement with park visitors.<sup>346</sup> Current and former female staff at Sesquicentennial State Park have generally reported that the park service does well at trying to hire female staff. Recent statistics may indicate otherwise. As of 2019, there are only five female park managers out the forty-one managers in the entire South Carolina State Park system.<sup>347</sup>

<sup>343</sup> “Blacks Encouraged to Use State Parks,” n.d, Miss South Carolina State Parks Files.

<sup>344</sup> “Blacks Encouraged to Use State Parks,” Miss South Carolina State Parks Files.

<sup>345</sup> Previous holders of the Miss South Carolina State Parks title have been the following: Cheryl Folk (1968) – Clemson University; Mary Lou Harris (1969) – University of South Carolina; Lyn Josselson (1970) – Columbia College; Deborah Wilson (1971) – Winthrop College; Abigail Brown (1972) –South Carolina State College; Jane McCall (1973) – Presbyterian College; Alice C. Stender (1974) – Newberry College; Pam Foxx (1975) – Limestone College; Cheryl Ann Swanson (1976) – Furman University; Janet Jeanne Kelly (1977) – Erskine College; Eva Armstrong (1978) – Benedict College.

<sup>346</sup> Jensen, e-mail interview with Todd, 26 March 2019.

<sup>347</sup> Al Hester, Historic Sites Coordinator, e-mail interview with Carlie Todd, 9 April 2019.

## 7. Forest Management

Forest management in this period is largely controlled by land loss and land acquisition, but there are continued efforts of forest conservation within the fluidity of the land controlled by Sesquicentennial State Park. On July 5, 1988, the South Carolina Forestry Commission officially deeded the land of Sesquicentennial State Park to the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism.

The conservation of its longleaf pine forest was of primary concern to the state park system. Although the park once was covered with longleaf pine trees, logging and turpentine harvesting decimated the population. Previous sections of this report have noted the importance of longleaf pine to the park's history and how efforts of longleaf rehabilitation were started as early as the CCC era. Currently, there are "a few plots of land where there are old growth longleaf pines that date back 90-125 years, other plots that consist of younger trees about 50 years old and also some areas where new longleaf are starting to grow."<sup>348</sup> However, the park's "urban location and its primary usage as a recreational park have limited the pine tree ecosystem through fire suppression."<sup>349</sup> Fire is necessary for longleaf pines to thrive, as it "exposes the mineral soils that are needed for seedlings to establish and grow."<sup>350</sup> However, the park's urban surroundings make controlled fires extremely difficult.

A 2017 report on longleaf pine history at the Sesquicentennial State Park suggested that the park's current management policies regarding longleaf pine would lead to the tree's eventual extinction in that region.<sup>351</sup> Because longleaf pines grow slowly, and require controlled burns that are exceedingly difficult in a park surrounded by urban development and private residences, the attempts to preserve and rebuild the longleaf ecosystem to what it once was has proven to be a tough task.

Park administrators have introduced slash pine trees to replace the diminished longleaf population. Slash pine, one of the four major southern pine species, is commonly confused with longleaf, making it an ideal replacement. Slash pine in South Carolina is native to Charleston County and the region farther south but has been introduced to Richland County via Sesquicentennial State Park. No official date is certain, but slash pine was most likely introduced to the park in the mid-1980s.<sup>352</sup> Indeed, "slash pine appears to mark a period of management transitions at the park and can be seen as a relic to the park."<sup>353</sup> After the park came under control of the South Carolina Parks Recreation and Tourism, management shifted from focusing "profiting from timber sales, but instead moved towards focusing on providing resource-based recreation and outdoor education opportunities."<sup>354</sup> As such, reintroducing pines was an opportunity to preserve the natural landscape of the park for education, recreation, and

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<sup>348</sup> Stuart Alexander et al., Department of History, University of South Carolina, *The History and Future of Longleaf Pine in Sesquicentennial State Park* (Report prepared for Environmental Issues Seminar: Environmental History in Public Lands, 2007), 7.

<sup>349</sup> Alexander et al., *History and Future of Longleaf Pine*, 2.

<sup>350</sup> Alexander et al., *History and Future of Longleaf Pine*, 2.

<sup>351</sup> Alexander et al., *History and Future of Longleaf Pine*, 2.

<sup>352</sup> Deirdre Kearney et al., Department of History, University of South Carolina, *Slash Pine in Sesquicentennial State Park* (Report prepared for Environmental Issues Seminar: Environmental History in Public Lands, 2017), 10-11.

<sup>353</sup> Kearney et al., *Slash Pine*, 11-12.

<sup>354</sup> Kearney et al., *Slash Pine*, 11-12.

environmental reasons. Because slash pine grows rapidly and looks so similar to longleaf, it was ideal to quickly fill the land of the park. However, it is an intolerant variety and thus dominates slower-growing species, like longleaf. It also requires intensive management and prescribed burns in order to maintain its ecosystem, similar to longleaf.

## 8. Fire Management

One of the most important responsibilities of the State Park was managing fires, both preventing accidental and purposeful burning and managing controlled burns. The Forestry Commission and State Park Service detailed records of burned acreage and fire-types. These records were compiled weekly, monthly, annually, and quinquennially, and were broken down into both counties and district (for example, Sesquicentennial State Park would be located under Richland County and in Camden District).<sup>355</sup> Based on a sampling of these records, Sesquicentennial State Park generally had an above average number of fires, but not a high amount of acreage burned. For example, in 1969, Sesquicentennial State Park and Richland County had the fifth most fires in South Carolina but was seventeenth in acreage burned, with 180 fires but only 598 acres burned.<sup>356</sup> In a report chronicling the five year period from 1964 to 1965 through 1968 to 1969, Richland County ranked low in “Average Size per Fire (acre),” “Percent Area Burned,” and “Number Fires per 100,000 Acres.”<sup>357</sup> This is likely due to Richland County’s smaller geographic size than most of the counties listed. The many weekly and monthly reports tend to conform to this trend.

These reports also designated the types of fires that occurred in parks. The majority of fires in Richland County were either careless or intentional, such as debris burning, or planned fires to control the wildlife.<sup>358</sup> These controlled fires are due to the park’s large amount longleaf pines, which requires fire to regenerate.<sup>359</sup> However, because the park is located in the middle of a large urban area, and is surrounded by neighborhoods and private land, controlled burns are quite risky. As such, the preservation of longleaf pine in the park becomes difficult. Sesquicentennial State Park was rarely subject to malicious burnings, though many other state parks in South Carolina were.

Although records describing day-to-day aspects of fire prevention contain little information about Sesquicentennial State Park specifically, it is difficult to imagine practices were substantially different throughout the state. Minimum tower duty depended on the day’s fire index classification (how the day’s weather conditions might affect the spread of fire). A “Class 1 Day” (a Spread Index of 1-4) requiring a 30 minute and 2 hour watch duty, and Class 3 through 5 Days (Spread Index above 10)

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<sup>355</sup> For more of these reports from 1957-1974, see Boxes 1-2, Series 162006 Reading Files 1957-1974, State Commission of Forestry Records, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia.

<sup>356</sup> “Table 4 - Fiscal Year 1968-69,” Box 1, Reading Files 1957-1974, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>357</sup> “Above Average Fire Statistics – Five Year Period – 1964-65 – 1968-69,” Box 1, Reading Files 1957-1974, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>358</sup> “South Carolina Forest Fire Report January – November 1969,” Box 1, Reading Files 1957-1974, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>359</sup> *History and Future of Longleaf Pine*; F. S. Gillman and W.J. Platt, “Effects of long-term fire exclusion on tree species composition and stand structure in an old growth *Pinus palustris* (Longleaf Pine) forest,” *Plant Ecology* 140 (1999): 15–26.

requiring tower duty from 9am to 5pm with an hour lunch break, and 15 minute watches throughout the night.<sup>360</sup> In the late 1960s, South Carolina State Parks began to inspect their fire towers and considered replacing them (it is not known if Sesquicentennial replaced their tower, but considering its disuse today it is unlikely).<sup>361</sup> They also kept up-to-date on any developments in fire prevention.<sup>362</sup>

## 9. Loss and Acquisition of Park Lands

Land loss and land acquisition since 1967 resulted from changes in the landscape of Richland County and efforts by State Parks officials to prioritize objectives like community recreation, longleaf pine conservation, and generating revenue. Regarding the sale of or acquisition of park land, the public demanded involvement in some manner, whether seeking to maintain the size of the park, have a buffer zone to more urban areas, or expand urban interest.<sup>363</sup> 1,400 residents of the area signed a petition to oppose the sale of park land in 1988.<sup>364</sup>

**(a) Loss and Trade of Park Lands.** Within this period, Sesquicentennial State Park occasionally gave up land through easements or traded it with land rights of other areas. Easements give right of use, but not possession, of this land to another. These easements and trades were usually in order to generate revenue, in response to the commercial pressures of urbanization, as a result of a desire to create a buffer zone from the growing metropolis, or to generate revenue. There are plenty of reasons why the Park Service would trade away land from Sesquicentennial State Park, many involving the urban sprawl and population growth in the area around the park.

The boundaries and size of Sesquicentennial State Park have fluctuated quite a bit since 1967. In 1963, construction of I-20 resulted in a loss of 62.6 acres, and in 1972 another 1.2 acres were lost due to a widening of US 10. Within the interest of community recreation, park officials have also traded land primarily with Polo Road Park. In 1969, Richland County leased 26 acres of Sesquicentennial State Park to Polo Road Park; in 1974, it leased another 20 acres. Park officials traded 7.09 acres of land with Polo Road in 1979, and this land was added to the Service and Supply Center. In 1981, Polo Road Park was given 31.9 acres for them to build soccer fields.<sup>365</sup> Polo Road Park is on the edge of Sesquicentennial State Park, and they were given easement rights by Richland County. These land grants were essentially “right-of-ways” that let Polo Road Park use the land at Sesquicentennial State Park however they saw fit.

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<sup>360</sup> “S. C. State Commission of Forestry, Fire Control Procedure: Tower Duty Schedule,” 1 July 1969, Box 1, Reading Files 1957-1974, State Commission of Forestry Records; “Tower Duty Schedule: S. C. State Commission of Forestry,” 25 March 1969, Box 1, Reading Files 1957-1974, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>361</sup> J. R. Tiller, memo to John M. Shirer, 9 September 1969, Box 1, Reading Files 1957-1974, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>362</sup> Letter from John M. Shirer, Assistant State Forester Fire Control, to John W. Hamilton, 17 August 1966, Box 1, Reading Files 1957-1974, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>363</sup> Warren Bolton, “Northeast-Area Residents Insist PRT Should Have Given Them a Say in the Deal,” *The State*, 12 February 1988.

<sup>364</sup> Michael Lewis, “1,400 Oppose the Sale of Richland Park Land,” *The State*, 8 March 1988.

<sup>365</sup> “Sesquicentennial State Park Timber Survey,” Resource Management Offices, South Carolina State Park Service, 27-28.

Land was eased to companies to add utilities, such as when 15-feet on the edge of Polo Road were transferred to South Carolina Electric & Gas for the addition of power poles, or when land was sold to Wyatt Development Company for the installation of an industrial quality fence.<sup>366</sup> One of the main reasons, however, appears to be that most of the land given away was essentially useless. The land provided little benefit to the park and would not be missed.<sup>367</sup> Any funds received from the selling of park land would have been used by the state Park Service to purchase sites that were “needed to protect resources in parks.”<sup>368</sup>

**(b) Land Acquisition.** Within this time period, park officials made requests for increased acreage for the means of natural conservation as land was ceded and altered for recreational needs, like fields.<sup>369</sup> In 2004, the park gained the plat of land where Corley’s Chapel and cemetery were located. In its largest acquisition, at some point between 2007 and 2010, Sesquicentennial State Park’s management was given control of Goodale State Park. The park manager of Goodale had retired, and the Park Service decided to try and sell the park to Camden due to its low visitation rates. Camden did not wish to pay for another park manager, again due to its low visitation, and so the Park Service placed Sesquicentennial State Park’s management in charge of Goodale.<sup>370</sup> Although the land is not contingent with Sesquicentennial State Park, the resources and staffing of the park have been expanded outward to Kershaw county.

## 10. Inventory of Extant Cultural Resources

**(a) Amphitheater.** The addition of the amphitheater to the park is significant because it was a large expense that brought visitors to the park and created community connections. The amphitheater represents administrative desires to offer historical and dramatic programming in the park. Completed in 1968, the amphitheater at Sesquicentennial State Park cost over 200,000 dollars to construct.<sup>371</sup> It was built to host *The Liberty Tree*, a play about the American Revolution that ran from June to August in 1968.<sup>372</sup>

**(b) Log House.** The Log House is significant because it serves as an example of historical interpretation and increased tourism at the park. It is also significant because the house is constructed out of longleaf pine trees.<sup>373</sup> The administration used the Log House as a giftshop space, leased it out to artists, and

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<sup>366</sup> William R. Jennings, letter to Alvin Hentz, 20 September 1982, Box 1, Reading Files 1957-1974, State Commission of Forestry Records; Fred B. Brinkman, letter to Buddy Johns, 30 December 1987, Box 1, Reading Files 1957-1974, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>367</sup> Buddy Jennings, Ray Sisk, and Ron Carter, memo to Fred Brinkman, 4 March 1988, Box 1, Reading Files 1957-1974, State Commission of Forestry Records.

<sup>368</sup> Warren Bolton, “PRT considering sale or swap of land for 10 acres at park,” unattributed and undated photocopy of newspaper, State Park Office Files.

<sup>369</sup> Jennings, Sisk, and Carter to Brinkman, 4 March 1988.

<sup>370</sup> Jensen, e-mail interview with Todd, 26 March 2019.

<sup>371</sup> “‘The Liberty Tree’ Starts Last Month,” *Columbia Record*, 3 August 1968.

<sup>372</sup> Bob Keaton, “Youth Theater Would Take Over Sesqui,” Manuscript in the office files of the Resource Management Office, South Carolina State Park Service.

<sup>373</sup> “Sesquicentennial Log House Rehabilitation Plan Draft,” 7 April 2007, Sesquicentennial Log House Files.

used the structure to anchor the site of festivals at the park. This demonstrated the role of the Log House as a space to be used to suit visitor needs of the park by park administration.

**(c) Bathhouse.** The Bathhouse, a key structure during the CCC era as the park as well as a recreational focal point in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, has since become a structure open to historical interpretation. When the lake as a swimming area was the recreational epicenter of Sesquicentennial, the bathhouse served as a key structure for visitors to use to change their clothes and buy concessions. After swimming at the lake was disallowed, the bathhouse's purpose changed. It now serves as a storage space, however administrative interest in creating an exhibit space in the bathhouse may alter the structure into a key interpretive space for park history.

**(d) Polo Road Park.** Polo Road Park is significant because it is an example of land acquisition and loss between adjacent parks. Previously owned by Sesquicentennial State Park, this property was deemed unnecessary. It was sold and became part of Polo Road Park. Negotiations between the two parks continued over several years, ultimately expanding the acreage at Polo Road Park to consist of baseball, softball, soccer, and football fields as well as a playground.<sup>374</sup> This land transfer demonstrates the recreational needs of Richland County.

**(e) The Lake.** The lake is a significant resource for interpretation of the history of the park during the late 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries because it shows how visitor interactions with the resources at Sesquicentennial State Park have changed. The lake continued to be popular in latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century for swimming. The lake was closed for swimming in 2003 and the lifeguard chairs were removed. The lake continues to be used for bass fishing and fishing boats can be rented at the park; pedal boats and canoes are also available to be rented. This transition demonstrated a decline in the popularity of the lake as Richland County residents were seeking swimming areas within community pools or vacationing to the beach.<sup>375</sup>

**(f) Splashpad.** The recently-constructed splashpad is significant because it represents a new addition to the park landscape in visitor amenities and shows a continued desire to offer water-based activities. The splashpad was opened in 2016 to attract visitors during the warmer months of the year. Although the lake had been closed for some time, this addition demonstrated public desires to have some kind of water feature at the park, mostly for children to enjoy.<sup>376</sup>

**(g) Park Office.** The park office was converted from the shelter that housed the *Best Friend*. After the gift shop was removed from the Log House, the office has been used as a giftshop space.<sup>377</sup> The downsizing of a giftshop staff and space demonstrated administrative decisions about reducing staff and focusing park interpretation on natural history.

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<sup>374</sup> "Staff Review for Additional Land at Polo Road Park," Manuscript in the office files of the Resource Management Office, South Carolina State Park Service.

<sup>375</sup> "Sesquicentennial." Come out and Play. Accessed 21 April 2019.

<sup>376</sup> "Sesquicentennial."

<sup>377</sup> "Sesquicentennial."

## 11. Inventory of Vanished Cultural Resources

**(a) *Best Friend*.** The *Best Friend* holds significance because it increased tourism at the park and served as a physical representation of South Carolina history on the park landscape. This replica was going to be a ride with a full track, but instead became a display and play area due to funding complications.<sup>378</sup> It quickly became a main attraction enjoyed by visitors. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1987 the rights to this replica were officially transferred from the Department of Parks Recreation and Tourism to the South Carolina State Museum.<sup>379</sup> The shelter that housed the train was converted into the park's office and an area for storage.

**(b) *Lifeguard Chairs*.** The removal of the lifeguard chairs indicated shifts in the use of the lake as a park resource. The removal also resulted in the elimination of the long-standing staff position of "lifeguard." The lifeguard stands were removed in 2003 when the lake was no longer used for swimming. Their removal also ended the lifeguard staffing position at the park, which had been filled since the Civilian Conservation Corps era by staff from the Work Progress Administration's staff, and then staff hired through the park.

**(c) *Lake piers*.** The removal of the piers is significant because it demonstrates the shifts in visitor activities centered around the lake. These piers were removed after the lake was closed for swimming.

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<sup>378</sup> Sawyer, "No Rails for Best Friend."

<sup>379</sup> "Best Friend" Train Transfer Agreement, 10 March 1987, Records of Transfer Agreements, South Carolina State Museum.



## Section V. Interpretive Products

### A. Walking Tour: QR Codes

WordPress Website URL associated with QR Code Guided Walking Tour:

<https://site10.wordpress.cdhs.org>

#### 1. Weddell Fire Tower



*Weddell Fire Tower, 1990s. Courtesy, National Historic Lookout Register.*

Weddell Fire Tower was originally built at Fort Jackson but was moved to Sesquicentennial State Park in 1940. The tower is one of the highest points in Richland County, and the view from the top allowed towermen to pinpoint the exact location of forest fires. During the 1940s and 1950s, towermen lived near the tower so that they could focus almost all of their attention on watching for fires. Observation was most important during the fire season from October 1st to May 31st. Towermen used two-way radios and telephones for easy communication with Commission of Forestry officials and were often able to locate fires within five minutes of starting. By the 1990s, better fire-monitoring tools meant that towermen no longer needed to staff Weddell

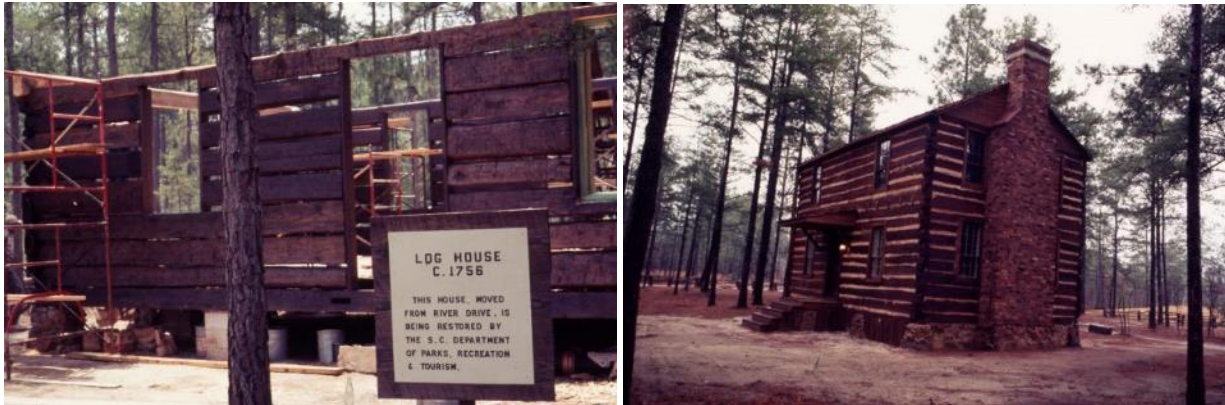
Fire Tower.

During World War II, forest fire prevention was necessary to protect both national security and valuable timber resources. Towermen constantly watched for “suspicious” fires, especially for those near military bases. Government officials also used public relations campaigns and figures like Smokey the Bear to promote the importance of forest fire prevention. By stressing fire prevention during its management of the park, the Commission of Forestry protected the home front and resources in short supply and freed up manpower to fight in the armed forces.

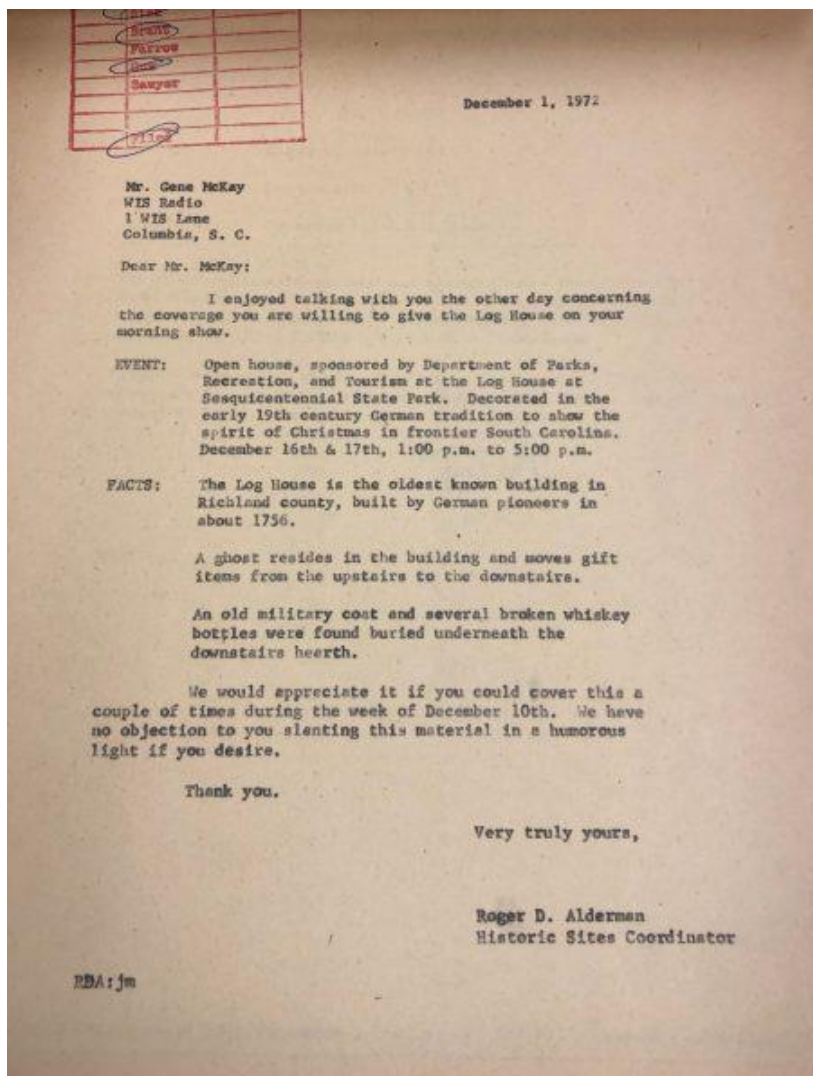


*Smokey the Bear Poster, 1945. Courtesy, United States Department of Agriculture.*

## 2. Why is this here?



*The Log House in the 1970s during and after it was reconstructed at Sesquicentennial State Park*



*Letter from Roger Alderman to Gene McKay of WIS Radio about the history of the Log House.*

Although the Log House you see looks original, it was not part of the park's original landscape. The Log House was moved to Sesquicentennial State Park in 1969 from Earlewood. Park visitors could go inside this historic structure and purchase souvenirs at the gift shop.

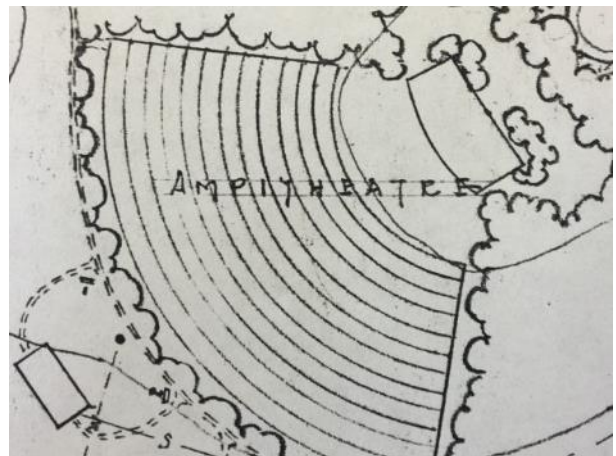
Park officials decided to use the Log House to celebrate early settlement of the Carolina frontier, colonial building methods, the American Revolution, and the Civil War. What was missing in this story was the history of Indigenous peoples who lived at this site.



### 3. Amphitheatre



The creation of an amphitheater for Sesquicentennial State Park was first envisioned by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1940 but, was never constructed. The amphitheater was completed by the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism in April of 1968 to stage plays and other performances. "The Liberty Tree," an historical play based on South Carolina's role in the Revolutionary War, was performed that summer and the following. The play received media attention locally and across the region.



The play demonstrates the efforts made to interpret state and national history in a local setting. In 1970, the amphitheater was leased to the University of South Carolina's Theater Department to stage educational performances. In 1975 the former stage area was remodeled and enclosed to become a training center and meeting area. The space now hosts overnight camps visiting the park.

#### 4. Longleaf Pine

By the early 1900s, decades of logging and turpentine extraction by previous owners James Douglass and the Dent family had taken a noticeable toll on its native longleaf pine forests. A 1905 description of the land noted that almost all of the trees on its 1,000+ acres were gone and the ones that remained were either dead or could not be saved. During the park's construction in the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) carried out a replanting initiative. Because longleaf pine trees grow very slowly, the CCC planted faster-growing loblolly and slash pine trees to reforest the land as quickly as possible.

Today, longleaf pine makes up only a small part of the pine forests at Sesquicentennial State Park. Their small numbers result from logging, turpentine extraction, and the CCC's replanting of non-native pine trees. However, their small numbers also result from the absence of fire. Longleaf pine trees have adapted to fire and rely on it for their growth. Because the park today is an urban park, controlled burns to replenish the longleaf pine forests are virtually impossible.



**Can you spot longleaf pine trees?** Look at their needles. Longleaf pine needles form the shape of a ball, while loblolly and slash pine needles are flatter and more fanned out.

## 5. Sesquicentennial Monument

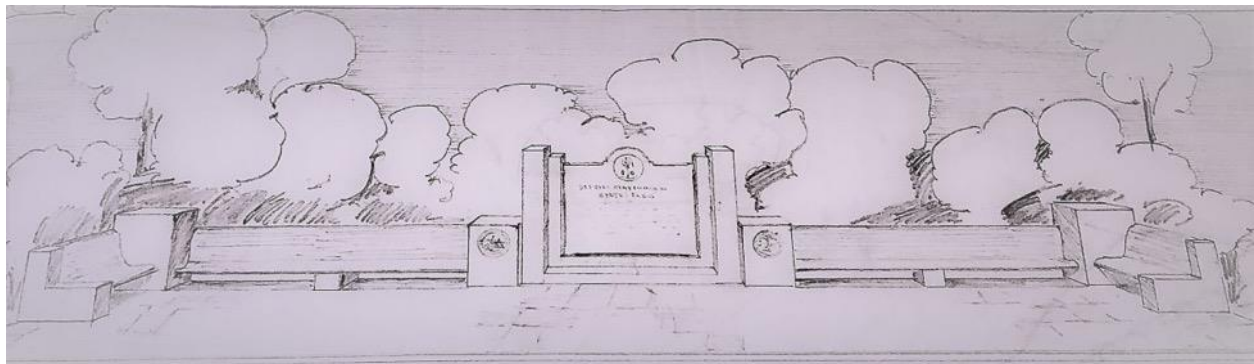


Sesquicentennial State Park was one of the most important gifts that the city of Columbia received for its 150th anniversary in 1936. The monument celebrates the members of the Sesquicentennial Commission and their role in the creation of the park. The Commission was responsible for the planning, management, and execution of the Sesquicentennial Celebration. Commemorative coins were minted and sold in order to finance an entire week of events held in Columbia during March 1936, which included concerts, theatrical plays, and pageants.

In 1937, the commission purchased the land that would become the park with surplus funds from the celebration. The Civilian Conservation Corps played an active role in the development of the park, which included the construction of buildings and structures. The Sesquicentennial Commission



transferred management of the park to the Commission of Forestry, and the park officially opened in 1940 to white visitors.





## 6. Programs at the Park



*Boys forming pyramid in front of bathhouse, 1940s.*

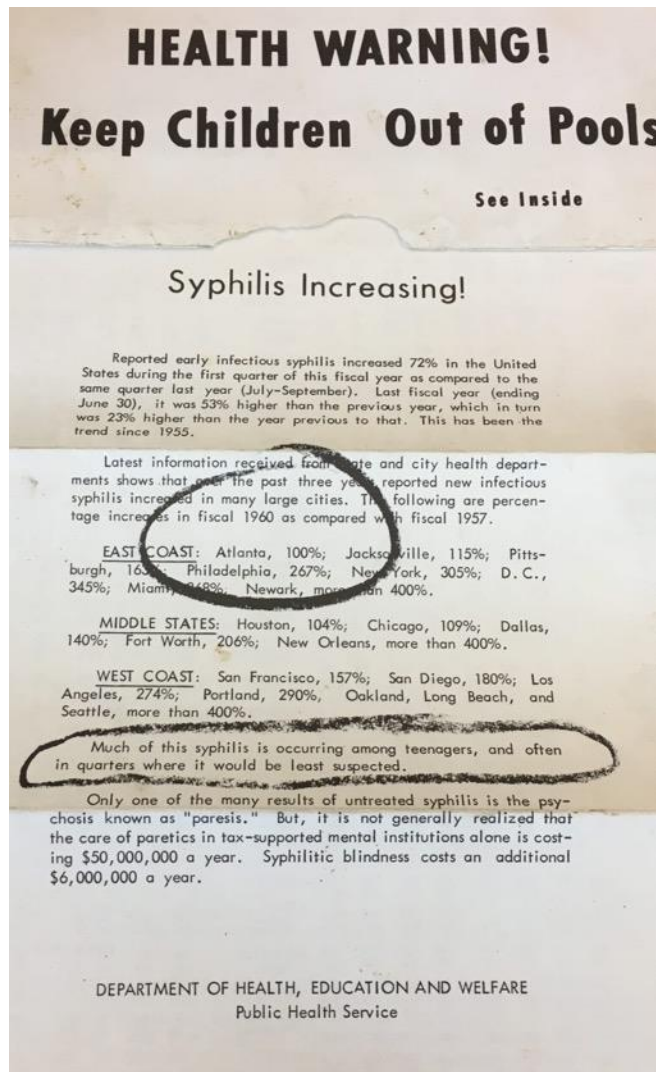
Ashore, the park hosted sporting events such as softball tournaments, archery competitions, and rodeos, as well as Girl Scout meetings, school field trips, picnics, barbecues, and Fourth of July celebrations. These activities were very popular with the park's visitors; and Sesquicentennial State Park became one of the most-visited state parks in South Carolina. On holiday weekends during the summer, it was common for the park to receive over 10,000 visitors a day.

During the 1940s and 1950s, Sesquicentennial State Park hosted and organized a variety of recreational programs. Swimming in the park's lake was one of the most popular activities. The Commission of Forestry held free "Learn-to-Swim" drives and offered paid swimming lessons throughout its management of the park. Day camps for children also stressed the importance of swimming and water safety. The park's lake also hosted statewide swimming and diving meets as well as regional fishing contests.



*Children's Day Camp, 1940s.*

## 7. Water: A Site of Conflict



When the State Parks closed, the state government sought input from South Carolinians on whether to re-open. This letter-writer suggested African Americans spread disease, connecting sexually transmitted diseases to swimming and reflecting a racist belief that African Americans were inherently dirtier than whites.

White South Carolinians who resisted integration fixated on swimming areas, like pools, beaches, and lakes. Considered intimate places, many whites found it unacceptable for white bodies to share water spaces with black bodies.

When a federal court ordered that South Carolina State Parks desegregate in 1963, park officials closed all state parks rather than desegregate. When the parks re-opened in 1964, all swimming areas, including the lake at Sesquicentennial State Park, remained closed. The lake re-opened to black and white visitors in 1966. It remained open until it permanently closed in 2003.

( ) My family will boycott 'integrated' pools.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Bus. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

**I am a WHITE American ready to FIGHT To keep WHITE schools WHITE AND POOLS**

☐ I attach hereto \$1 for which please enroll me as a member of SEPARATE SCHOOLS for 1 year.

☐ I volunteer for \_\_\_\_\_ hours work monthly at assigned tasks.

☐ Enroll me as a sustaining member, I wish to give \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month.

☐ Enroll me as an associate member without charge.

Separate Schools Inc P O Box 1 Atlanta 1 Georgia

This letter-writer also emphasized pools and swimming areas as a reason not to desegregate the parks.



## 8. Bathhouse



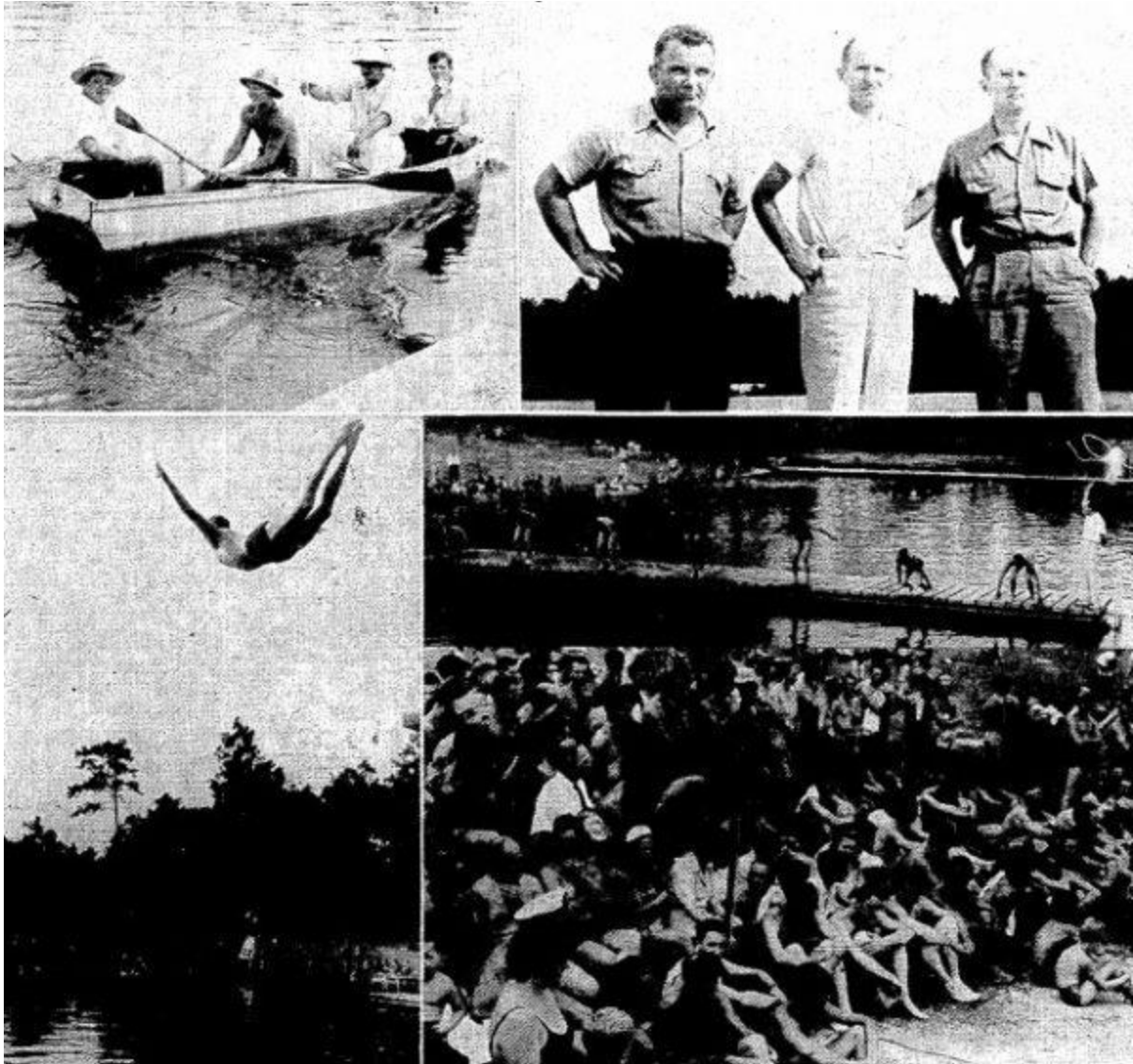
Beginning in 1938, one of the primary tasks of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) at Sesquicentennial State Park was the construction of buildings and structures. These were unique because almost all of them were made using concrete, including the bathhouse. This was a controversial decision. Despite initial doubt, concrete was the most durable building material available. It was also the most convenient because of the large amount of sand in the Sandhills region. Using concrete proved a great success, not only because of its appearance, but also because it lowered the cost of maintenance at the park.



When the bathhouse first opened to the public in 1940, the user fee was 15 cents for adults and 10 cents for children. In the center of the building, there was also a concession stand that sold drinks and ice cream. Use of the bathhouse, as well as the entire park, was only available to white visitors until 1966.

## 9. The Lake

The Civilian Conservation Corps expanded the existing pond into the current twenty-acre lake at Sesquicentennial State Park by damming Jacksons Creek in the 1930s. The lake was used for swimming, boating, and fishing. Originally, it had a sandy shore and a swimming dock. Activities and swim lessons were hosted at the lake. The lake was so popular people were using it before the park officially opened in 1940. The lake, like the park, remained segregated until 1966.



## 10. Women at the Park



*Miss South Carolina State Parks, Mary Lou Harris, 1968*

Women have always been involved with Sesquicentennial State Park. In addition to enjoying outdoor recreation, women used the park as a space for women's organizations to meet and host events. Staff positions for women during the 1940s and 1950s were usually limited to dieticians or bathhouse attendants.

The state parks held "Miss South Carolina State Parks" pageants to promote park use beginning in 1968. These pageants would choose an attractive female college student to serve as an image for the park system. These women would go to local communities and encourage people to visit state parks. The program ended in 1980.

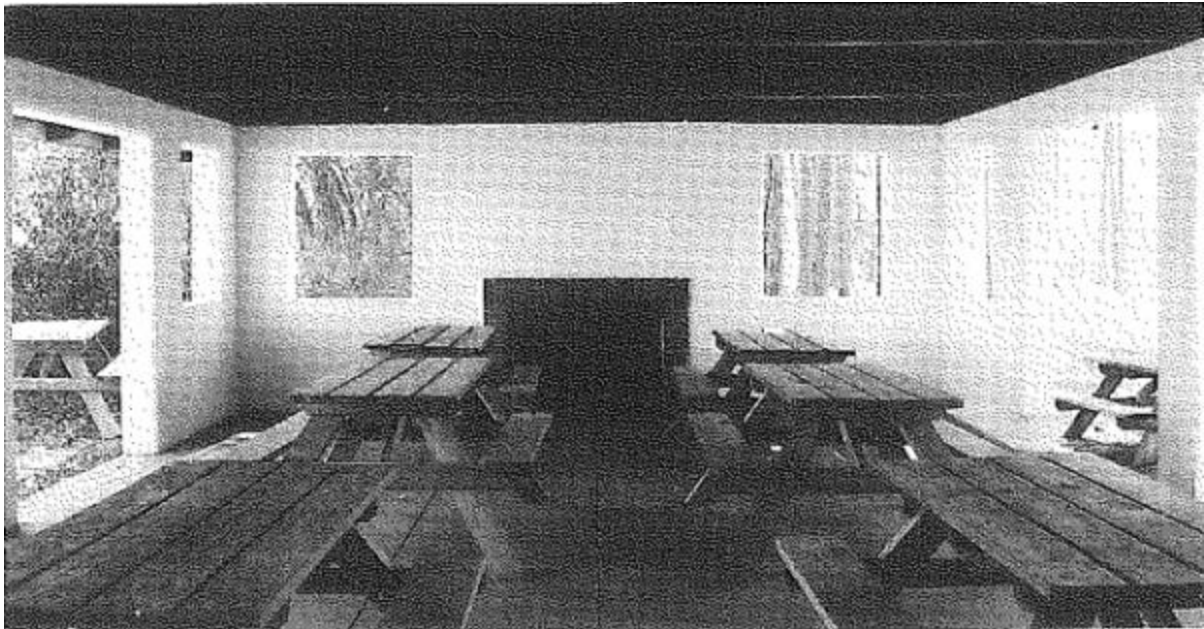
Eventually women were hired for important staff positions as park rangers or park managers. Sesquicentennial State Park has had one female park manager and several female park rangers and interpreters since the 1970s. As of 2019, women still only make up five of the forty-one park managers in South Carolina's state park system.



*Miss South Carolina State Parks, Abigail Brown, 1972*

## 11. Picnic Shelters

Sesquicentennial State Park has long served as a community center and an escape from city life, where visitors can come to enjoy nature and recreational activities. The Civilian Conservation Corps built these picnic shelters in 1938 and equipped them with fireplaces and picnic tables for guest use. Like most of the other structures from this time, the picnic shelters were constructed from concrete. Built for groups of people to gather, these spaces demonstrate the social aspect that made Sesquicentennial State Park so popular.



Some park land was used to build roads like I-20 and the neighboring Polo Road Park. In 2004, the park acquired the land that contained Corley's Chapel and its cemetery.





### 13. Enslaved People Lived and Labored Here



Enslaved people on Edisto Island farm sweet potatoes, one of the crops enslaved people on this property also grew. Photo by Henry Moore, 1862.

The first documented owner of the land that became Sesquicentennial State Park was James Douglass who owned the property by 1842. By 1860, Douglass enslaved eighteen people. Their names remain unknown.

Enslaved people at this site grew food crops, tended livestock and ran the saw mill that was powered by this creek.

Page No. 87

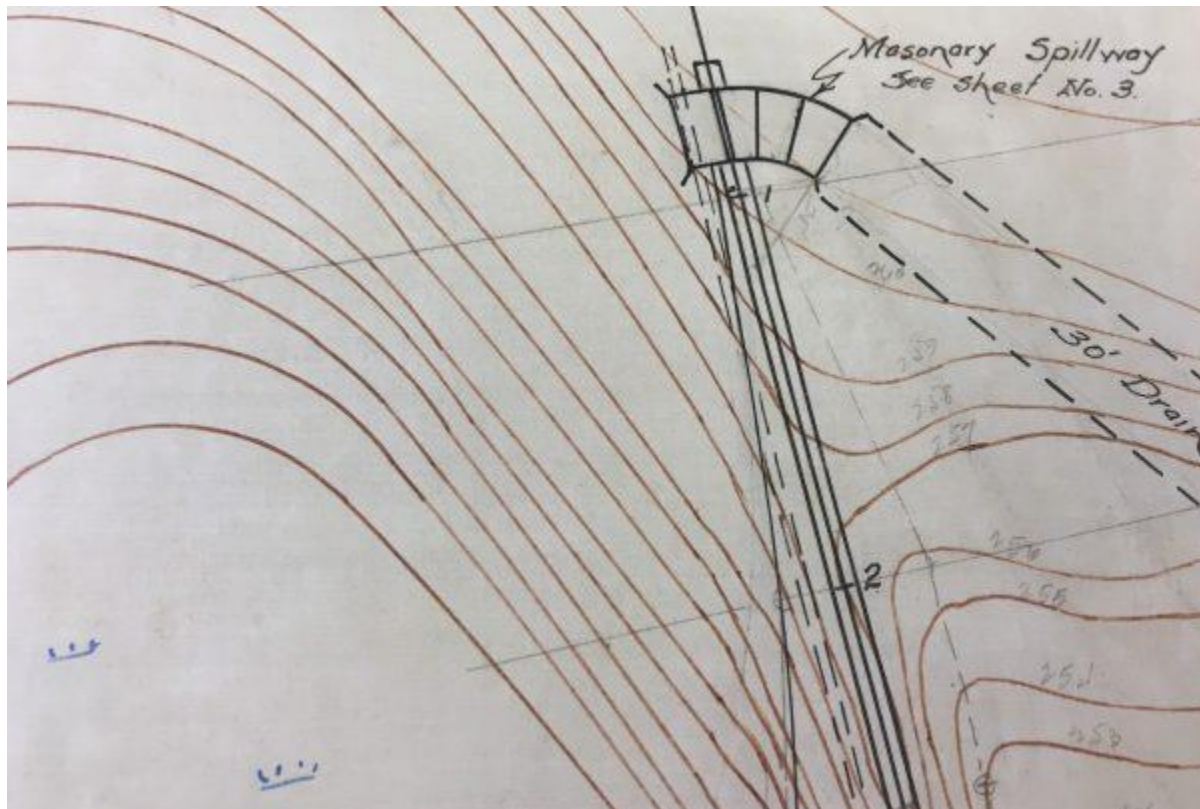
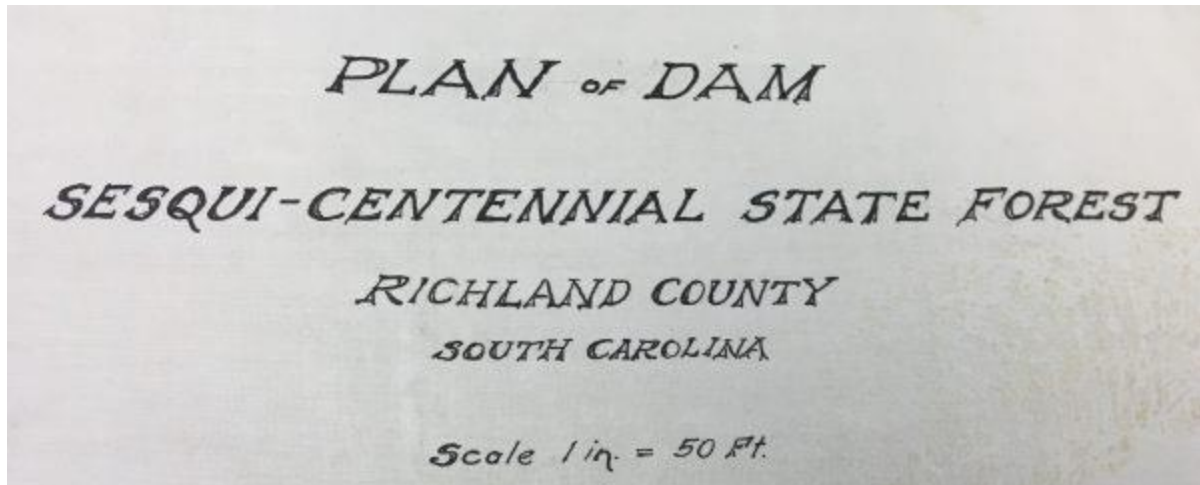
**SCHEDULE 2. Slave Inhabitants in** in the County of Richmond State of South Carolina  
 of 1860, enumerated by me, on the 14 day of Aug, 1860. John S. Walker Ass't Marshal.

NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.		SEX.		AGE.		COLOR.		HANDS & FEET, MARRIED, SINGLE, OR OTHER.		NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.		SEX.		AGE.		COLOR.		HANDS & FEET, MARRIED, SINGLE, OR OTHER.		NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.		SEX.		AGE.		COLOR.		HANDS & FEET, MARRIED, SINGLE, OR OTHER.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
		1	M	45						James P. Goff		1	M	45							James P. Goff		1	M	45					
		1	M	40						William H. Miller		1	M	40							William H. Miller		1	M	40					
		1	M	35						Robert McDaniel		1	M	35							Robert McDaniel		1	M	35					
		1	M	30						McFarland		1	M	30							McFarland		1	M	30					
		1	M	25						James Douglass		1	M	25							James Douglass		1	M	25					
		1	M	20								1	M	20									1	M	20					
		1	M	15								1	M	15									1	M	15					
		1	M	10								1	M	10									1	M	10					
		1	M	5								1	M	5									1	M	5					
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		1	F	5								1	F	5									1	F	5					
		1	F	1								1	F	1									1	F	1					

The 1860 Slave Schedule of the Federal Census recorded the age and sex of enslaved people but did not record their names. Douglass enslaved men, women, and children as old as 67 and as young as 10 months.

#### 14. Spillway

By August 1938, the Civilian Conservation Corps began work to dam Jacksons Creek to create a swimming area for the new park. Creating a lake for visitors had been an important goal in selecting this site for the park.



The original plans for the dam included a 100-foot dike, with the spillway situated near the picnic shelters. During the building process, the dam was lowered a foot so it did not obstruct visitors' views of the lake.



## 15. The First Human Inhabitants of This Land

The land now known as Sesquicentennial State Park was first inhabited by Indigenous peoples. Jackson Creek would have sustained semi-nomadic groups of Indigenous peoples during their seasonal movements. By the 18th century, the most prominent Indigenous groups in what became Richland County were the Congaree, Wateree, and the Catawba.



*The stream of water now called Jackson Creek likely sustained semi-nomadic Indigenous groups moving through Richland County.*

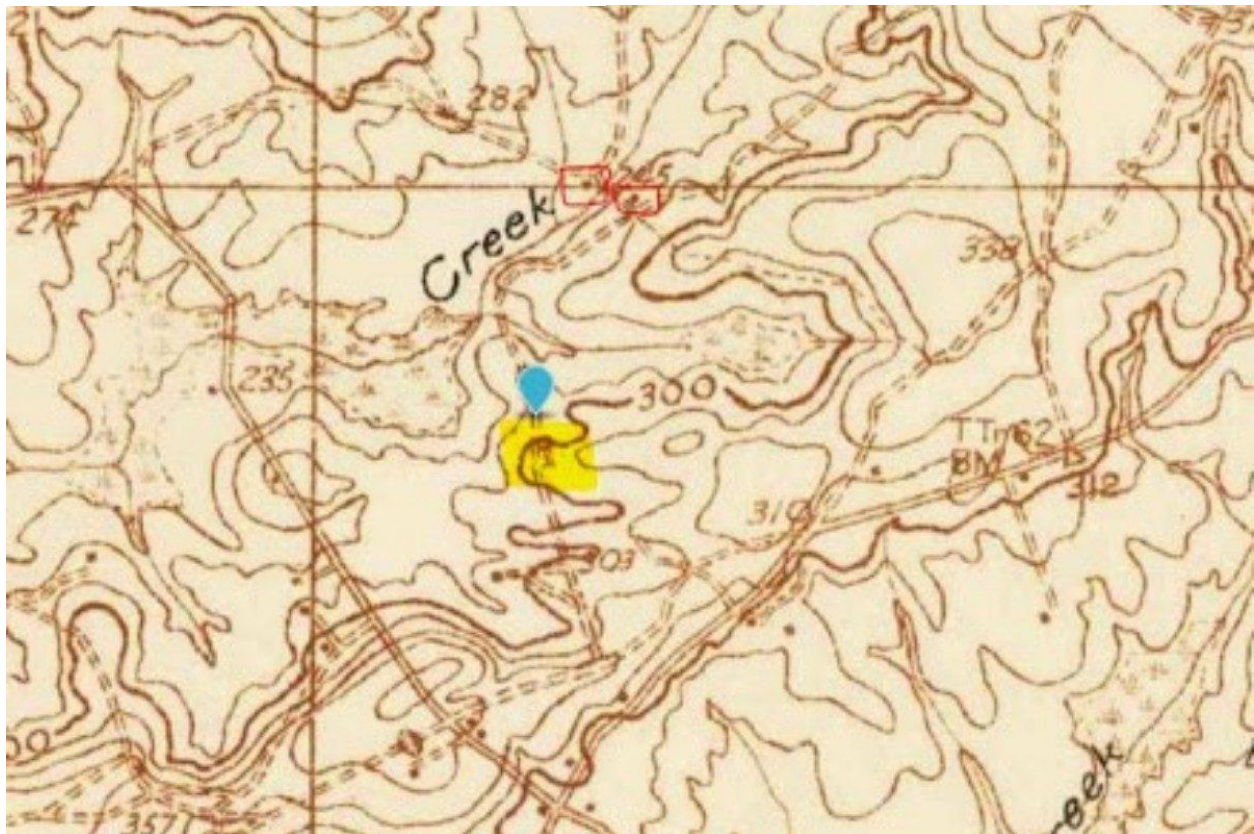


## 16. Corley's Chapel






*William Pulaski Corley's headstone in Corley Chapel's cemetery.*




After the Civil War and during the Jim Crow era, schools and churches formed a crucial social network for the growing African American community around what would later become Sesquicentennial State Park. Founded by William Pulaski Corley as an African Methodist Episcopal (AME) church, Corley's Chapel supported the social, spiritual, and political needs of the African American community until at least 1916. Corley's Chapel also had a black school with an average of 44 students a year. The students all came to school from within a three-mile radius. Today, all that remains of the Corley's Chapel site is its cemetery. Those buried at Corley's Chapel participated in small-scale farming by either renting or owning land.









*1916 Richland County Soil Map; Chapel site near Jackson's Creek. The site of the church is indicated.*




List of the sixteen QR codes:

1 - The Fire Tower	
2 - Log House	
3 - The Amphitheater	

<p>4 - Longleaf Pine</p>	
<p>5 - Sesquicentennial Monument</p>	
<p>6 - Programs at the Park</p>	

<p>7 - Water: A Site of Conflict</p>	
<p>8 - Bathhouse</p>	
<p>9 - The Lake</p>	

<p>10 - Women at the Park</p>	
<p>11 - Picnic Shelters</p>	
<p>12 - Park Land Losses and Acquisitions</p>	

<p>13 - Enslaved People Lived and Labored Here</p>	
<p>14 - Spillway</p>	
<p>15 - The First Human Inhabitants of this Land</p>	




16 - Corley's Chapel




## B. Potential Wayside: "Turpentine Scarred Trees of the Park."

This wayside can be placed in the camping area near the bathroom, where there are at least three scarred trees. A draft of the wayside is below.

### Turpentine Scarred Trees of the Park




In the late nineteenth century, this land was covered in longleaf pine trees, a valuable resource. From 1886 until at least 1900, workers extracted turpentine from the trees and also cut them down for logging. By the 1920s, the land was heavily deforested.



Most of the people working in the turpentine industry were African American. "Chippers" cut a chevron pattern in the bark to stimulate the flow of sap (top left). "Dippers" then collected the crude turpentine from boxes cut into the base of the tree (bottom left).

Left: Images Courtesy of the South Carolina Forestry Commission



Extracting turpentine left distinctive "V"-shaped scars in the trunk of trees also known as "cat faces." You can find scarred trees from turpentine tapping in the park campsite. The scars are over 100 years old.

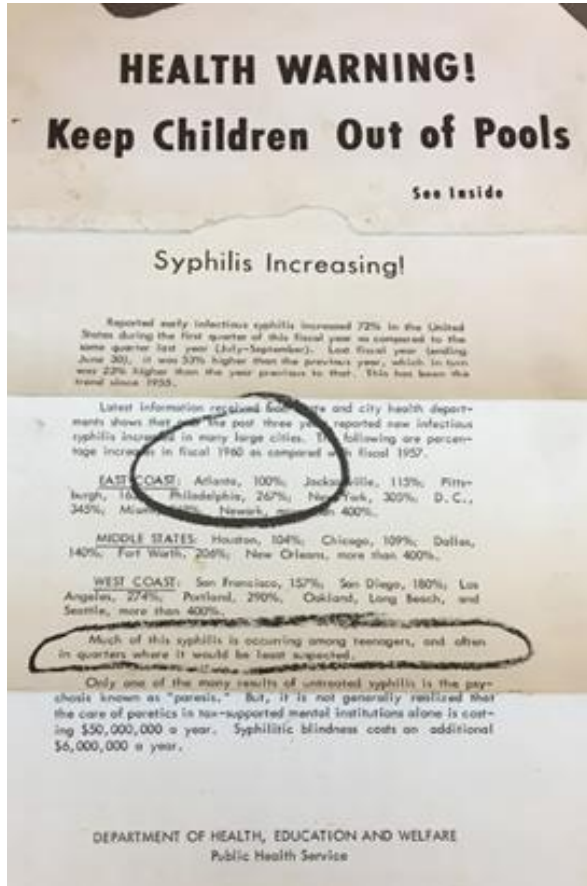
Left: Turpentine-scarred tree in Sesquicentennial State Park

#### How many turpentine scars can you find in the park?

Scan the QR code with your smartphone's camera to learn more about the longleaf pine at Sesquicentennial State Park

## C. Suggested Edits to the Segregation Story Map

Page can be added between Page 14 and 15 in the Segregation Story Map (<https://scsps-rmi.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=f7d41a2e8288446ea6bda99390b45f95>).



When the State Parks closed, the state government sought input from South Carolinians on whether to re-open. This letter-writer suggested African Americans spread disease, connecting sexually transmitted diseases to swimming and reflecting a racist belief that African Americans were inherently dirtier than whites.

When parks were closed after 1963, the state formed the Arrants Committee, led by Representative J.C. Arrants, to study whether the parks should remain closed or re-open. South Carolinians across the state wrote into the Arrants Committee and attended hearings where they gave their opinion on the park closures.

White South Carolinians who resisted integration were fixated on swimming areas, like pools, beaches, and lakes. They were seen as intimate places where black and white bodies shared the same space, which many whites found unacceptable. When most of the parks re-opened in 1964, all swimming areas remained closed, and Edisto State Park remained entirely closed.

( ) My family will boycott 'integrated' pools.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phones: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Bus. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

**I am a WHITE American ready to FIGHT  
To keep WHITE schools WHITE AND POOLS**

☐ I attach hereto \$1 for which please enroll me as a member of SEPARATE SCHOOLS for 1 year.  
☐ I volunteer for \_\_\_\_\_ hours work monthly at assigned tasks.  
☐ Enroll me as a sustaining member, I wish to give \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month.  
☐ Enroll me as an associate member without charge.

Separate Schools Inc P O Box 1 Atlanta 1 Georgia

The writer of the card above also emphasized pools and swimming areas as a reason not to desegregate the parks.

## Section VI. Suggestions for Further Research

### A. Pre-Park Site History, c. 12,000 BCE – 1937

Archaeological study of Indigenous habitation of the site now known as Sesquicentennial State Park.

Archival and archaeological research to identify the locations of the slave cabins, the saw mill, the grist mill, the tenant house, Douglass residence, and other vanished buildings from the pre-park era.

A full history of James Douglass (1797-1878), the earliest documented owner of the land that would become Sesquicentennial State Park.

A history of the turpentine industry in Richland County and/or South Carolina. Who were the people who did the turpentine labor at the site now known as Sesquicentennial State Park?

Archival research and oral history interviews about the Roberts family. Did the Roberts family live on the land prior to the park's creation? If so, where? Were the Roberts family descendants of people enslaved by James Douglass?

A full history of Corley's Chapel, Corley's Chapel School, and Corley's Chapel Cemetery, focusing on the African American community that they served.

- a. Where was the Corley's Chapel School building located? (Archaeological work will likely be necessary to determine this.) What years did the school operate? Did High Hill School replace Corley's Chapel School as the primary education facility for the African American community around the future park? Richland Library's Walker Local and Family History Center may have some information on the historic District 10 that Corley's Chapel was included in.
- b. When was Corley's Chapel Church established and when did it cease operations? Where was the building located? Did it begin during slavery or immediately after emancipation as a "brush arbor" outdoor church? Where did its congregation go when the church itself was abandoned?
- c. Contact David T. Wilson, listed on the sign at the entrance to the cemetery as its current caretaker. Who is maintaining the site and what is their connection to the cemetery and its history? Oral histories with David Wilson or this family could be useful.
- d. Further deed research. Who were the owners of the Corley's Chapel site from the antebellum period to the 1940s? Did James Douglass own it prior to emancipation? When he built the church, did William Pulaski Corley own the land? The church?

Records of the Freedmen's Bureau at the National Archives may reveal evidence of sharecropping or tenant farming at the site now known as Sesquicentennial. Those records may also provide names of people enslaved by James Douglass. Records from the South Carolina Field Office include labor contracts for the Richland District for 1867-1868.

Further research into the best practices for promoting sustainability of longleaf pine trees at Sesquicentennial State Park by:

- a. Surveying current longleaf pine tree population.

- b. Rehabilitating the longleaf population by planting saplings. To minimize or eliminate labor costs, the park could organize a volunteer-based event.
- c. Conducting manual removal of competing vegetation to provide the optimal environment. The cost and labor of manual removal would be an issue.
- d. Conducting controlled burns to eliminate competing vegetation. The urban location of the park presents a major challenge to this option.

#### **B. The Sesquicentennial and the Creation of a Segregated Park, 1935 – 1941**

A full history of the activities of the Sesquicentennial Commission of 1936. Who were its members? What connections, if any, were there to the University of South Carolina?

A biography of state senator (and park proponent) James Henry Hammond.

A biography of Helen Kohn Hennig and her role in the intellectual and religious life of Columbia.

A full history of Civilian Conservation Corps Company #4469.

#### **C. The Management of the South Carolina State Commission of Forestry, 1940 – 1967**

Archival research and oral history interviews to determine the role of women as fire lookouts and in staff positions at Sesquicentennial State Park.

A history of the campaigns to build a park for African Americans in Richland County. The involvement of NAACP activists and the timing of the request in the late 1940s suggests that this may have been part of a concerted campaign to seek equal facilities for African Americans. This request occurred in the same period that the NAACP was active in pushing for school equalization.

Archival research to verify the *Columbia Record's* claim that the fire on March 25, 1947 burned over 1,000 acres of timber within the park's boundaries.

Research to conclude precisely why the bathhouse's original roof was replaced in 1953.

Did the Roberts family work in the park after 1948? What were the Roberts' daily job duties and responsibilities as park laborers?

Did the park employ African American women during the Commission of Forestry's management?

#### **D. The Civil Rights Movement Comes to South Carolina's State Parks, 1956 – 1966**

More documentation on the violent racial encounter in April 1940 at the nearby YMCA lake between the white members of CCC Company #4469 and black soldiers stationed at Fort Jackson. Did the incident reflect white fears of "water contamination"? Was it an early instance of civil rights activism?

How has Sesquicentennial State Park—and the entire South Carolina State Park system—chosen to remember its history of segregation since desegregation in 1966?

## **E. The Management of the South Carolina State Park Service, 1967 – present**

Only one year after the state parks were desegregated and reopened, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism was created to replace the Commission of Forestry in managing state parks. Was there a connection? Was reorganization a clean break from the Commission of Forestry's legacy of race-based exclusion and discrimination at South Carolina state parks?

A biography of Janson Cox, the first museum professional to work for the State Park Service. He held various titles from 1969 to 1972, including: "Chief Curator of Historical Interpretation and Museums," "Assistant to the Director of History and Historic Interpretation," and "Chief Historian." The ways that he attempted to integrate Sesquicentennial into a network of sites of historical interpretation should be investigated.

Oral interviews with Park Service personnel retired from Sesquicentennial State Park. How many women and people of color have worked at the park? What were their positions and job duties? What were their experiences like serving at the park?

The role of women at Sesquicentennial State Park as both visitors and staff. This research may encompass other time periods prior to management of the South Carolina State Park Service.

Additional research on the programs implemented at Sesquicentennial State Park to increase the racial diversity of visitors to the park.

Statistics on the demographic makeup of visitors at Sesquicentennial State Park after desegregation of the South Carolina state parks in 1966. Was there was a significant increase in visitorship by African Americans to the state parks after desegregation?

Oral histories should be conducted with African American residents of Richland County about their experience with the park after integration. How did they experience the post-segregation park? How did they engage with programming and facilities?

Further research about the use of the "Miss South Carolina State Parks" pageant as advertisement for the park should be conducted. How does this pageant contribute to larger ideas about the social perception of women in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century? How can the pageant winners and their legacy be viewed through the intersecting lenses of race and gender?

## Section VII. Appendices

### A. Historical Timeline of Site History

1740s

Phillip Jackson acquires land in the general area of the present Sesquicentennial State Park. It is unclear if he owned the land that James Douglass later bought.

1825 - 1842

Over this span of time, James Douglass (1797-1878) acquires the land that would become Sesquicentennial State Park.

1842

First confirmed record of James Douglass owning the land that is now Sesquicentennial State Park. Records indicate he owned at least one saw mill by this point.

1850

Census lists 11 people enslaved by James Douglass.

1860

Census lists 18 people enslaved by James Douglass.

1860 - 1870

James Douglass adds a grist mill to his property.

1870

Census lists a “mulatto” woman named Tena Bird living with James Douglass, possibly as a domestic servant.

1873

Douglass’s grist mill burns down.

1878

James Douglass dies and his land passes to a succession of owners. He leaves bequests to Tena Bird, Nancy Taylor, and Wilson Taylor, whom he may have enslaved.

1880s

Turpentine production expands into the Midlands.

1880s

Corley’s Chapel Church is listed as a “mission” in 1881 and 1882 and then as a “circuit” church in 1888, possibly indicating it went from semi-permanent to permanent status.

1886



John Dent and his son John B. Dent jointly purchase 1,488 acres of the land that would later become Sesquicentennial State Park. They each own half of the land. The Dent family uses the land primarily for logging and turpentine extraction.

1897

John Dent dies and his portion of the land passes to his son John B. Dent.

1899

John B. Dent dies and the land passes to his heirs: his widow, Rebecca A. Dent, and his children Walter Kingsley Dent, Henry Sowden Dent, Janie Marion Dent, and John Dent.

1900

A passing train sparks a fire that burns Dent land. The Dent family sues the railroad company and wins damages for destruction of timber and turpentine boxes.

1910

The *Charleston Evening Post* reports that the turpentine industry has “all but disappeared from South Carolina.”

1913

Corley’s Chapel School is listed in the report of the State Superintendent of Education as a one-teacher school, with an average of 44 students attending each year from within a three-mile radius.

1916

Corley’s Chapel appears on an Historical Soil Survey map of Richland County.

1927

The South Carolina Commission of Forestry is established and initially charged with protecting South Carolina’s forests, promoting the benefits of good forest management, and monitoring the conditions of forests throughout the state.

1935

The U.S. Geological Survey’s Killian Quadrangle shows the presence of Corley’s Chapel Cemetery, but not a chapel or school. A road is visible connecting to Jackson Creek and passes several buildings, possibly tenant houses.

February 1935

The Sesquicentennial Commission is established, to be chaired by State Senator James Henry Hammond. An Historical Committee, chaired by Helen Kohn Hennig, also referred to as Mrs. Julian Hennig, is also created. Its funding is to come from the sale of commemorative coins.

4 June 1935

Civilian Conservation Corps Company #4469 is established to do fire control, maintain the state nursery, and eventually build Sesquicentennial State Park. The men live in a camp located a few miles east of the park called SC P-71 or Camp Pontiac, located between U.S. Route 1 and the Seaboard Air Line Railway tracks.

January 1936

A total of 200,000 commemorative seals are sold, supervised by the Chamber of Commerce's assistant secretary, Robert Mobley.

22 – 26 March 1936

The Sesquicentennial Commission marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Columbia in 1786 with a week-long series of pageants and events.

1936

*Columbia: Capital City of South Carolina 1786-1936*, an anthology edited by Helen Kohn Hennig, is published by the Columbia Sesqui-centennial [sic] Commission.

20 November 1936

*The State* reports that a steeplechase course will be built as part of the planned Sesquicentennial State Park.

Spring 1937

As the official Sesquicentennial Celebration events conclude, the Sesquicentennial Commission learns it has a surplus of \$26,000. The Commission decides that the money should fund permanent forms of commemoration, including historical markers throughout Columbia, a botanical garden at the University of South Carolina, and a state or municipal park.

1937

The Dent tract, located in the Sandhills north of Columbia, is selected by the State Commission of Forestry for the site of a state park for the white residents of Columbia.

August 1937

The Sesquicentennial Commission purchases 1,415.5 acres for a state park from the Dent family for \$14,857.50. The Commission conveys the land to the Commission of Forestry for development of Sesquicentennial State Park.

Fall 1937

Civilian Conservation Corps Company #4469 begins park construction work. The plan encompasses a lake, bathhouse, picnic shelters, spillway, and amphitheater.

October 1937

The first fire break units are purchased by the Commission of Forestry, which consist of two tractors and fireline plows.

August 1938

Construction of the dam and lake begin, to be situated near a picnic and barbeque area for recreational use. The dam includes a 100-foot dike.

1938

The bathhouse is constructed at a cost of \$10,000. The building's primary materials are concrete and stucco, in contrast to the wood and stone used in the majority of other state parks.

1938

The two picnic shelters by the lake are constructed primarily of concrete. One features a fireplace. Both have decorative tiling and terra-cotta-style roofs.

1938

The latrine is built, also with decorative tiling and a terra-cotta-style roof. It is fitted with plumbing and electrical wiring with an estimated cost of \$700.

1938

50 new historical markers are erected throughout Columbia by the Sesquicentennial Commission.

1938

As state parks for whites are constructed in South Carolina by the Civilian Conservation Corps, African American leaders and community members assert their right to public recreation spaces. The Commission of Forestry reluctantly responds by building three parks (Pleasant Ridge, Campbell's Pond, and Mill Creek) as blacks-only state parks. The Commission of Forestry also creates "Negro areas" at Lake Greenwood, Hunting Island, and Huntington Beach state parks.

1939

*A Guide to Columbia, South Carolina's Capital City* written by Jane Kealhofer Simons and edited by Margaret Babcock Meriwether is published by the Columbia Sesquicentennial Commission.

22 September 1939

The Sesquicentennial Commission ends its activities with a banquet at Sesquicentennial State Park.

February 1940

The fire tower is relocated from Fort Jackson and reassembled in the park.

10 March 1940

A newspaper reports that the park is well-situated because there are "more than 134,000 white inhabitants within 50 miles of the park." The reporting also notes two beautification efforts: the Daughters of the American Revolution have planted more than 400 acres of longleaf pine seedlings, and the local Kiwanis have planted 5 acres of slash pine.

21 April 1940

A violent racial encounter occurs at the nearby YMCA lake between the white members of Civilian Conservation Corps Company #4469 and black soldiers stationed at Fort Jackson.

1 June 1940

Sesquicentennial State Park officially opens. Over 5,000 visitors come to the park over its first weekend of operation with a full summer staff.

14 July 1940

The Commission of Forestry "cordially invites" visitors to the new park, although it is only "25 per-cent" complete. Open facilities include picnic and cooking areas, the lake with diving tower, the beach, and the bathhouse. The bathhouse also includes a refreshment stand with "cold drinks, ice cream...and

cigaretts [sic]." Admission fees are 10 cents for children and 15 cents for adults. Boat rental is also available for 25 cents for the first hour and 15 cents for each additional hour.

July 1940

James Henry Hammond notes that the park looks like "Coney Island" with its throngs of visitors.

1941

Over 15 million trees are planted in South Carolina State Parks and Forests, including many at Sesquicentennial State Park.

February 1941

Civilian Conservation Corps Company #4469 implements reforestation "Project #206," the mass planting of slash pine seedlings and seeds at Sesquicentennial State Park.

1941

The South Carolina Commission of Forestry erects a monument and plaque entitled "Sesqui-Centennial State Park Established 1937."

15 October 1941

Work on the amphitheater is predicted to take 1,500 man-days, so the project is put on hold. (An amphitheater is eventually constructed in the park during 1967-1968.)

October 1941

Company #4469 (and other Civilian Conservation Corps companies) are disbanded due to national defense efforts and anticipated American entry into World War II. The Commission of Forestry assumes direct management of Sesquicentennial State Park.

1941

In a report about South Carolina's state parks and recreational facilities, the National Park Service and the South Carolina Commission of Forestry acknowledge the need for "numerous and well-distributed" blacks-only state parks.

1942

The Commission of Forestry constructs 24 additional picnic tables to accommodate high numbers of visitors at Sesquicentennial State Park.

c. 1942 – c. 1948

Isom Roberts and his sons Willis Roberts and Rufus Roberts are employed as laborers at Sesquicentennial State Park.

11 March 1942

The Commission of Forestry instructs employees not to publicize forest fires that were potentially the result of enemy sabotage.

1943

Second revised edition of *A Guide to Columbia, South Carolina's Capital City* by Jane Kealhofer Simons and Margaret Babcock Meriwether is published by the Columbia Chamber of Commerce "as a

continuation of the Historical Marker-Guide Book Program of the Columbia Sesquicentennial Commission of 1936.” The pamphlet contains an introductory essay on the history of Columbia and a listing of the full texts of the 50 historical markers, arranged as walking and driving tours.

1946

The fire tower is equipped with radios, as an experiment.

31 July 1946

Sesquicentennial State Park holds a festival in order to attract attention to the park’s existing resources and to build support for expansion of the park and additions to its facilities. The improvements are estimated to cost \$646,000 and would include a new day use area, a convention and conference area, and more camp sites. James Henry Hammond is a major advocate of expanding park facilities.

1947

Sesquicentennial State Park is the most visited state park in South Carolina, with 329,899 recorded visitors.

25 March 1947

A forest fire, fanned by high temperatures and winds, destroys nearly one thousand acres of timber at Sesquicentennial State Park, according to the *Columbia Record*. State Parks Director P.R. Plumer requests more effective fire suppression work at the park.

23 June 1947 – 11 July 1947

Richland County Girl Scouts hold day camps at Sesquicentennial State Park. Camp programming includes “swimming, outdoor cooking, arts and crafts, and nature study.”

July 1947

Mrs. M.W. Johnson, Marion Paul, J.M. Hinton, and Adele Minahan meet with State Forester Charles H. Flory to discuss creation of blacks-only state for Richland County.

July 1948

In correspondence with State Forester Charles H. Flory and Associate State Forester C.H. Schaeffer, and through consultations with the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, James Henry Hammond pushes to expand Sesquicentennial State Park to include a separate area for African Americans.

22 July 1948

Associate State Forester C.H. Schaeffer notes that any land being considered for an African American park in Richland County—if it has a body of water—must be located downstream from any bodies of water used by whites.

July 1948

The Commission of Forestry builds a new heavy timber picnic shelter.

1949

The Columbia Chamber of Commerce abandons the plan to build a “blacks-only” section at Sesquicentennial State Park.

1949

The Commission of Forestry identifies land for sale near Fort Jackson that it thinks has potential for development into an African American park, but the plan is abandoned. After 1949, efforts to create a blacks-only park in Richland County are largely set aside.

1949

The Commission of Forestry begins working with the weather bureau to acquire more specific information on meteorological factors that affect fire management.

12 February 1949 – 24 January 1951

The “More Trees for South Carolina” initiative is proposed as an educational program. It is initiated in order to improve forest management practices and aid local landowners. The program is also implemented in response to the pulp industry’s drain on old-growth forests.

July 1951

The park superintendent reports more than 24,200 people visited Sesquicentennial State Park over Independence Day weekend.

November 1951

Park superintendent Marshall Holder requests the assistance of the South Carolina Game Warden in response to illegal hunting within the park.

1952

The *State Parks Newsletter* begins publication. These newsletters are circulated internally and seek to inform park personnel of current events and problems throughout all of South Carolina’s state parks.

April 1952

A forest fire is described as endangering Sesquicentennial State Park.

Fall 1952

A severe drought causes the Commission of Forestry to temporarily close all state forests and parks to decrease the likelihood of forest fires.

December 1952

James Henry Hammond urges the Columbia Chamber of Commerce to consider acquisition of two lakes near Sesquicentennial State Park, one for African American use and one for whites.

March 1953

The original terracotta-style bathhouse roof is replaced.

4 July 1954

14,136 visitors are reported at Sesquicentennial State Park for the Fourth of July celebration. Around 8,000 visitors swim in the lake.

15 July 1954

Fire destroys the privately-owned Sesqui Court Motel near the park’s entrance gates.



January – February 1955

A new garage and workshop building are constructed.

7 February 1955

Photographs document the lake's low water level, and trash piled around the piers and the beachfront.

15 May 1955

An editorial in *The State* discusses significant budget cuts for the state parks recently approved by the South Carolina General Assembly, even though there is a need for \$300,000 worth of improvements and maintenance to existing state park facilities.

1956

J. Arthur Brown and other members of the Charleston NAACP file the first lawsuit against that challenged segregation in South Carolina state parks.

1957

In a letter to the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, James Henry Hammond warns of the potential for "racial controversy" at Sesquicentennial State Park if facilities are not made available for African Americans.

1960

Activists challenge segregated beach facilities and swimming areas at Myrtle Beach State Park.

16 June 1961

Local NAACP field secretary Rev. I. DeQuincy Newman, J. Arthur Brown of the Charleston NAACP, and students from Allen University and Benedict College – Murry Canty, Edith Davis, Sam Leverett, Mary Nesbitt, H. Lloyd Norris, Jr., and Gladys Porter – challenge segregated facilities at the entrance gate to Sesquicentennial State Park. Rev. Newman tape-records the confrontation and it becomes the basis of the lawsuit that followed, *Brown v. South Carolina Forestry Commission*.

19 December 1961

An easement of 1.6 acres is allotted "along Jackson creek northeast of Alpine Road." On the same date, 57.8 acres "west of Alpine Road" are exchanged for 3 acres on U.S. Route 1 "to protect the aesthetic quality of the park entrance."

April – July 1963

*Brown v. South Carolina Forestry Commission* is heard in federal district court, with Judge J. Robert Martin ruling on July 10<sup>th</sup> that all state parks must desegregate within sixty days.

26 June 1963

The construction of Interstate 20 results in a loss of 62.6 acres of park land.

20 August 1963

The Commission of Forestry closes all state parks, including Sesquicentennial State Park, rather than open them on an integrated basis.

Fall 1963

The General Assembly forms a subcommittee to study the parks issue, headed by J. Clator Arrants of Kershaw County. The Arrants Committee holds public hearings throughout the state and solicits written feedback from the public and public officials. James Henry Hammond expresses hope that state parks can be reopened on a segregated basis, especially if national agitation for civil rights can be defeated.

1 June 1964

The General Assembly and the Commission of Forestry re-open the state parks on a limited basis. Edisto State Park remains closed, but 25 other parks reopen, including Sesquicentennial State Park. Swimming is not allowed at any state park.

1966

State parks fully reopen, including all swimming areas in parks. At Sesquicentennial State Park, the once-popular beachfront and lake sat empty and unused for nearly three years.

1967

South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism is established.

30 October 1967

Groundbreaking for the Amphitheater begins.

June 1968

The Amphitheater opens with a play about the American Revolution called *The Liberty Tree*, and features South Carolina's Francis "Swamp Fox" Marion. The play runs for two summers.

1968

To increase publicity surrounding state parks and to promote visitation, the South Carolina State Park Service begins the Miss South Carolina State Parks beauty pageant. The pageant features young women from universities and colleges throughout the state. Cheryl Fok from Clemson University holds the first "Miss South Carolina State Parks" title. Abigail Brown is the first African American woman crowned Miss South Carolina State Parks in September 1972. The pageant is discontinued in 1980.

May 1969

The Log House is relocated from 3225 River Drive and reassembled in Sesquicentennial State Park in cooperation with the Women's Club of Columbia. According to a dendrochronology report by Wade Bateson of the University of South Carolina, the house dates to 1756. At the time, it is believed to be the oldest building in Richland County.

1 July 1969

Richland County leases 26 acres of park land to add to Polo Road Park.

1970

The Amphitheater is leased to the University of South Carolina "to produce, stage or promote activities of an entertainment or educational nature."

24 November 1970

The public dedication of the Log House takes place in the park at 5:00 pm.

1972

A small building, assumed to be the kitchen of the Lace House at the Governor's Mansion complex, is moved to the park. The building is first used as a nature center and then converted into a residence.

October 1972

The widening of U.S. Route 1 causes a loss of 1.2 acres of park land.

15 August 1974

Richland County leases another 20 acres to further expand Polo Road Park for recreational needs like sports fields.

1975

The former stage area surrounding the Amphitheater is remodeled and enclosed to become a training center and meeting area. The space eventually hosts overnight camps.

1975

Two archaeological sites are recorded at Sesquicentennial State Park. Each is described as a "single component listed as 'unknown prehistoric.'"

18 January 1978

7.09 acres "southeast of Polo Road" is exchanged for an equal amount of land to be added to the Service and Supply Center land area.

1978

A shelter is constructed in Sesquicentennial State Park to house and to exhibit a replica of *The Best Friend of Charleston*, an early steam-powered locomotive that operated briefly from 1830-1831. The replica, along with "the only remaining Anderson automobile," is donated by Dolph Overton, former owner of the Wings and Wheels Museum in Santee.

1980

*The Best Friend* exhibit opens to visitors at Sesquicentennial State Park. Newspaper articles encourage young visitors to come out to the park to "play conductor and blow the whistle."

24 September 1981

In order to add soccer fields to Polo Road Park, 31.9 acres of park land are leased by Richland County.

20 September 1982

The parks gives a right-of-way of 7.09 acres to the South Carolina Electric and Gas Company.

1987

The replica of *The Best Friend of Charleston* is moved from the park to the South Carolina State Museum by the Army National Guard.

5 August 1987

A 15-foot right-of-way across the park is granted for a sewer line.

October 1987

First Annual Archeology Festival is held at the park. This festival will continue to be organized every year into the early 2000s.

Summer 1988

The Baha'i Community of metropolitan Columbia hosts a Race Unity festival at the park.

5 July 1988

The land of Sesquicentennial State Park is officially deeded from the State Commission of Forestry to the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism.

21 July 1988

One acre of land around the fire tower is granted back to the State Commission of Forestry.

26 July 1988

10.42 acres of land running "from the northern tip of the park to U.S. #1" is sold by the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. This land sale leads to public outcry about the loss of park lands.

2003

The lake at Sesquicentennial State Park is permanently closed to public swimming.

2004

The state acquires the land containing Corley's Chapel Cemetery, and it becomes part of Sesquicentennial State Park.

c. 2007 – c. 2010

Staff at Sesquicentennial State Park assume management of nearby Goodale State Park.

2016

Sesquicentennial State Park adds a splash pad for use during the warmer months of the year.

2018

Research by Public History students Elizabeth Koele and Emily Martin in *Civil Rights at Sesquicentennial State Park: A History and Preservation Plan for the Entrance of Sesquicentennial State Park* (2017) lays the foundation for placement of a civil rights wayside in the park.

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## C. Pre-Park Individuals: Biographical and Genealogical Notes

**1. Dent Family:** The members of the Dent Family were large landowners in the Columbia area who engaged in farming, milling, and turpentine extraction and production. John Bullard Dent was a Confederate veteran and a delegate to South Carolina's 1895 Constitutional Convention.<sup>380</sup>

Dent Family Genealogy:

John Dent (1814-1897) m. Rebecca Dent (1814-1892)

John Bullard Dent (1841-1899) m. Rebecca A. Davis (1845-1915)

Walter Kingsley Dent (1869-1940)

Henry Sowden Dent (1873-1945)

Janie Marion Dent (1877-1952)

John Dent (1883-1945)

### 2. Census Data on Individuals Buried at Corley's Chapel Cemetery:

Individuals Born Before the End of the Civil War				
Name:	1880 Census	1900 Census	1910 Census	1920 Census
William P. Corley (1846 –1913)			Occupation: Farmer (Owned) Location: Ancram Ferry Rd (Center Township) Race: Mulatto	
Andrew Counts (1847 –1926)		Occupation: Wood-Cutter Location: Dutch- Fork Race: Black	Occupation: Farmer (Rent) Location: Dutch- Fork Race: Black	Occupation: Farm Laborer Location: Percival Rd Race: Black

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<sup>380</sup> "Death of John B. Dent," *The State* [Columbia, SC], 30 April 1899. The 1895 constitution repealed the Reconstruction-era 1868 constitution and helped enshrine Jim Crow by disenfranchising many African Americans and prescribing segregation in public schools.

Selena Counts (1844 –1934)		Occupation: Not Listed Location: Dutch-Fork Race: Black	Occupation: Not Listed Location: Dutch-Fork Race: Black	
Harriet Dreher (1854 –1934)	Occupation: Housekeeper Location: Dutch-Fork Race: Black			
Toby Foose (1845 –1928)		Occupation: Farmer (Own) Location: Center Township Race: White	Occupation: Farmer (Own) Location: Ancram Ferry Rd (Center Township) Race: Black	Occupation: Farm Laborer Location: Percival Rd Race: Black
Phillis (Roberts) Foose (1850 – unknown)		Occupation: Not Listed Location: Center Township Race: White	Occupation: Farm Laborer Location: Ancram Ferry Road (Center Township) Race: Mulatto	Occupation: None Location: Percival Road Race: Black
Berley Lybrand (1863 –1925)	Occupation: Works on farm Location: Dutch-Fork Race: Black	Occupation: Farmer (R) Location: Center Township Race: Black	Occupation: Farmer (Rent) Location: Center Township Race: Black	Occupation: Farmer (Rent) Location: Two-Notch Race: Black
Sarah Bluford (1864 –1929)			Occupation: Farm Laborer (Husband Renting Farm) Location: Two Notch Rd Race: Black	Occupation: Farm Laborer (Husband Owns Land) Location: Percival Rd Race: Black

Daniel Jacobs (ca. 1864 – 1930)	Occupation: Farm Laborer Location: Columbia Race: Mulatto	Occupation: Farmer (R) Location: Center Township Race: Black	Occupation: Farmer (R) Location: Lusting Road, Center Township Race: Mulatto	Occupation: Farmer (R) Location: Longtown Road, Killian Race: White
Lizzie Jacobs (1864 –1937)		Occupation: Not Listed Location: Center Township Race: Black	Occupation: None Location: Lusting Road, Center Township Race: Mulatto	Occupation: None Location: Longtown Road, Killian Race: White

Individuals Born After the Civil War					
Name:	1900 Census	1910 Census	1920 Census	1930 Census	1940 Census
Alice (Grooms) Foose (1889 – 1992)			Occupation: None Location: Percival Rd (East Midway, Richland) Race: Black	Occupation: Farm Laborer Location: East Midway Race: Negro	Occupation: Farm Laborer Location: Percival Road Race: Negro
Sanders Foose (1886 – 1958)	Occupation: Farm Laborer Location: Center Township Race: White	Occupation: Farmer (R) Location: Camden Rd Race: Black	Occupation: Farmer (O) Location: Percival Rd Race: Black	Occupation: Farmer (O) Location: East Midway Race: Negro	Occupation: Farmer (O) Location: Percival Road Race: Negro

Pinck Foose (1884 – 1919)	Occupation: Farm Laborer Location: Center Township Race: White				
Mortkie Foose (1908- 2005)			Occupation: None Location: Percival Road Race: Black	Occupation: Laborer (Odd jobs) Location: East Midway Race: Negro	
Emma (Jacobs) Fox (1885 – 1974)	Occupation: Not Listed Location: Center Township Race: Black			Occupation: None Location: Columbia Race: Negro	Occupation: None Location: Dentsville Road, Park Race: Negro
Frank Fox Sr (1887 – 1974)	Occupation: Farm Laborer (Father rented farm) Location: Center Township Race: Black		Occupation: Farmer (O) Location: Edgewood, Richland Race: White Potentially another Frank Fox.	Occupation: Farmer (R) Location: Columbia Race: Negro	Occupation: Laborer, W.P.A. Road Project Location: Dentsville Road, Park Race: Negro

Enda (Foosse) Brown (1916 – 1999)			Occupation: None Location: Percival Road Race: Black	Occupation: Farm Laborer Location: Park, Richland Race: Negro	Occupation: Maid Location: New York Race: Negro
Michel Foosse (1874- 1918)	Nothing found				
Sammie Foosse (1920- 1999)				Occupation: None Location: Park, Richland Race: Negro	
Daniel Fox (1910- 1990)				Occupation: Laborer (Concrete Co.) Location: Columbia Race: Negro	Occupation: Laborer Location: Brown's Chapel, Richland Race: Negro
Delwood Fox (1917- 1971)					Occupation: Truck Driver Location: Dentsville Road, Park, Richland Race: Negro

Frank Fox, Jr. (1908- 1989)				Occupation: Laborer (Concrete Co.) Location: Columbia Race: Negro	
Jessie B. Fox (1914- 1989)				Occupation: Helper (General Farm) Location: Columbia Race: Negro	
William Fox (1947- 2006)	Dates beyond research focus				
William Fox, Jr. (1971- 2007)	Dates beyond research focus				
Thelma (Foosse) Hightower (1925- 2011)				Occupation: None Location: Park, Richland Race: Negro	

Emma (Fox) Hill (1920- 2013)				Occupation: Not Listed Location: R F. D 5 Road, Columbia, Richland Race: Negro	Occupation: Not Listed Location: Dentsville Race: Negro
Belle (Fox) Jacobs (1924- 2005)				Occupation: Not Listed Location: Columbia Race: Negro	Occupation: Not Listed Location: Dentsville Road, Park, Richland Race: Negro
Charlie Jacobs (1918- 1984)			Occupation: None Location: Wheat Street, Columbia Race: Black	Occupation: None Location: Tobacco Street, Columbia Race: Negro	Occupation: Painter Location: Columbia Race: Negro
Nezzie Jacobs (1896- 1973)		Occupation: None Location: Lusting Road, Center Township, Richland Race: Mulatto	Occupation: None Location: Longtown Road, Killian Race: White		



Sam Jacobs (1894-1937)	Occupation: None Location: Center Township, Richland Race: Black	Occupation: Farm Laborer Location: Lusting Road, Center Township, Richland Race: Mulatto	Occupation: None Location: Longtown Road, Killian Race: White	Occupation: Laborer (Automobile Shop) Location: Killian Race: Black	
Jessie L. Jenkins (1906-1997)		Occupation: Not Listed Location: Ancram Ferry Road, Center Township Race: Black			Occupation: Helper (Brick Yard) Location: Edgewood, Richland Race: Negro
Maggie (Foosse) Jenkins (1878-1946)		Occupation: Farm Laborer (R) Location: Ancram Ferry Road, Center Township Race: Black		Occupation: None Location: Pine Street, Columbia Race: Negro	Occupation: Not Listed Location: Edgewood, Richland Race: Negro
Marie Macon (1937-1972)	Dates beyond research focus.				

David T. Wilson, S. (1918- 2012)			Occupation: None Location: Edgewood, Richland Race: White	Occupation: None Location: Edgewood, Richland Race: Negro	Occupation: Roofing Helper Edgewood, Richland Race: Negro
Mell (Fox) Wilson (1924- 1994)				Occupation: Not Listed Location: Columbia Race: Negro	Occupation: Not Listed Location: Dentville Road, Park, Richland

## D. Members of the Sesquicentennial Commission of 1936

- 1. *Committee on Acceptance.*** Mrs. Bedford Moore, Mrs. Rion McKissick, Mrs. C. O. Brown, Mrs. George McCutchen, Mrs. George Dick, Mrs. Robert Welch, Mrs. James Goggan, and Mrs. Amelia Tompkins.
- 2. *Committee on Registration.*** Mrs. Caroline Swaffield, Mrs. J. M. Bigham, Mrs. W. B. Burney, Miss Harriet Clarkson, Mrs. Christopher Fitzsimmons, and Mrs. Richard Allison.
- 3. *Committee on China.*** Mrs. Gadsden Shand, Mrs. Gadsden Guignard, and Miss Uneunita Ruff.
- 4. *Committee on Miniatures and Daguerreotypes.*** Mrs. S. S. Boyleston, Mrs. William Weston Sr., and Mrs. Alex Sally.
- 5. *Committee on Silver.*** Mrs. George Dick, Mrs. James Heyward Gibbes, Mrs. Douglas McKay.
- 6. *Committee on Needlework.*** Mrs. J. M. Gayle, Mrs. W. E. Avery, Mrs. Thomas Calk, Mrs. W. B. Lowrance, and Mrs. A. A. Madden.
- 7. *Miscellaneous Committee.*** Mrs. Christie Benet, Mrs. Robert Earle, and Miss Lydia Brown.
- 8. *Hostesses.*** Mrs. Wilmort Brown, Mrs. Gadsden Shand, and Miss Uneunita Ruff.
- 9. *Men.*** E. O. Black, Hunter Gibbesand, and Stephen Elliot.